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Sharon: No deal if it's 'make- believe' portfolio

SARAH HONIG

LIKUD MK Ariel Sharon said Friday night that he would not join the government if the Infrastructure Ministry to be created for him was "a make-believe" portfolio.

"I hope that the promises made to the public are kept better than the ones that were made to me," Sharon told Channel 1.

No progress was made on the Sharon matter over the weekend, and Likud insiders doubt the predictions coming from the camp of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that the new portfolio will be all sewn-up by the weekend.

Likud insiders say there is no way Netanyahu can force his coalition partners to yield significant chunks of their ministries in order to form Sharon's new super-portfolio. Significant contributions are necessary from the Agriculture, Transportation, Energy and Housing portfolios to create the new ministry, and none of the ministers in question is willing to make even minor concessions.

The most Netanyahu might be able to come up with, insiders say, is a few crumbs from the Prime Minister's Office, which are sure to fail to meet Sharon's expectations.

Sharon told Channel 1's Friday news magazine that "it is not pre-ordained from above that I must be a minister. If it so transpires that I can't serve in the government, then I will serve as an MK, preferably in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, assuming of course that I am chosen for that committee." I will not be a minister in name only if there is nothing which I can actually do and actually contribute thereby.

This was Sharon's first public pronouncement on the portfolio matter. He had kept mum ever since the government was formed and had kept to himself on his Negev ranch. He did not even leave to attend the Thursday night Habad rally to which he was invited, and where he was eagerly awaited.

The very fact that Netanyahu had relegated the entire matter to Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman does not bode well for Sharon's chances to eventually find himself at the head of a new ministry, Likud insiders say.

Ne'eman is supposed to be influential with the religious parties, which do not want to sacrifice any clout by letting Sharon take a bite out of their ministries, and he is also supposed to solve the legal complications. However, it is noted that he doesn't have the final authority to make demands of coalition partners and to apply pressure to anyone.

The brief which Sharon had prepared on what he expects the new government to do.

Summit rejects Syrian demands



Jordan's King Hussein (l), Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (c), and Syrian President Hafez Assad meet in Cairo on Friday. The meeting was the first between Hussein and Assad since Jordan signed a peace agreement with Israel in 1994. (Reuters)

Golan panel slams Levy's willingness to compromise with Syria

DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

THE Golan Residents Committee yesterday sharply criticized Foreign Minister David Levy for expressing willingness to reach a compromise with Syria on the Golan in return for a peace accord between the two countries.

Levy, who made the comments in interviews on both television channels Friday night, said he did not rule out the possibility of the two sides meeting mid-way in the interests of peace.

"I believe that if peace serves both sides and they regard it as a primary interest, they will talk and meet halfway," Levy said, referring to Syria in an interview with Channel 2.

Asked about the possibility of a Golan compromise, he replied: "At a certain stage, and only if we achieve peace."

Levy said Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government would have no choice but to have a dialogue with Arafat. "He [Arafat] was elected [as Palestinian president]. There is a Palestinian Authority and we intend to advance toward peace and we will talk with him," he said.

Asked if he would be the first member of the government to shake Arafat's hand, Levy said: "I suppose so - if the other side carries out its commitments. We have no other partner."

Golan Residents Committee spokesman Uri Heimer said Levy's comments were a "bad omen regarding the intentions of the new government."

"The Golan in its entirety is an

integral part of the state. Any show of willingness to concede any part of it encourages Syrian aggressiveness and undermines Israel's policies," said Heimer.

The prime minister, who received a mandate from the electorate to preserve the Golan, must immediately make it clear whether the comments of the foreign minister express the policies of the new government.

"We are not prepared to accept a continuation of policies that create uncertainty over the future of the Golan, as if it is some kind of merchandise," Heimer said.

"We want a clear statement from the government that the Golan has the same status as the Galilee, Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel Aviv and that there will be no compromise and no concessions. After what the residents have been through in the past four years, they won't accept another situation which casts a question mark over their existence on the Golan."

Heimer said the residents had proved their ability to fight against concessionary policies regarding the Golan and would do so again if it proved necessary.

He noted that the Third Way Party would within three months submit a bill to the Knesset to amend the Golan Law, under which a majority of 71 MKs and over 50 percent of the electorate in a referendum would be needed to make any changes in the current status of the Golan.

"We expect all those parties, including the Likud, Tsomet, the NRP, Shas, Moledet and United Torah Judaism, who voted for the bill in the last Knesset, to do so when it is presented, now that they have the majority in the present Knesset," said Heimer.

Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan disputed Levy's statements.

"I don't think we must compromise or have with what to compromise on the Golan Heights," he told Israel Radio. "The government has stated that the Golan Heights is vital to our interests and we will not go down from the Golan Heights."

Levy, however, did receive support for his comments from other residents of the Golan belonging to the Derech Le-Shalom movement. Yigal Kipniss, the movement's founder and leader, said Levy had correctly identified the main problem in the peace process with Syria.

He said Levy's comments would help overcome Syrian concern regarding the seriousness of Israel's intention to hold real negotiations - on the basis of territory for peace.

Kipniss stressed that all Golan residents would applaud Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's negotiating prowess if he were able to implement his promises to achieve a "peace-for-peace" accord.

"If, however, in the course of the negotiations it becomes clear that

there will have to be some compromises and concessions in return for a peace accord that is in the interests of the state, then I think the majority of residents on the Golan will understand and accept this," said Kipniss.

"The name of the game now is to get the negotiations started and I think Levy's comments will help in that respect," he said.

Syria said yesterday that renouncing Arab lands was the only way for peace with Israel and urged the Arab summit opening in Cairo to declare that Israel's rejection of the land-for-peace would be unacceptable.

Official Syrian media denounced calls by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for peace talks with Arabs as baseless gestures which would only destroy the peace process.

"The new prime minister announced opposition to a Palestinian state or entity and threatened to renege on the few steps achieved on the way of peace," the official daily *Tishreen* said.

"The talks Netanyahu is demanding are futile, baseless, lead to no result and ruin the peace process because he denies the land-for-peace principle, backs off from commitments of the process... So, after all this, what is left of the peace process?" *Tishreen* questioned.

"Arabs did not join the talks... because they loved negotiations but because they were seeking a just peace," it said.

Arabs won't freeze ties with Israel; call on Likud to uphold Oslo

STEVE RODAN
CAIRO

ARAB leaders agreed to shelve Syria's proposal to downgrade relations with Israel until the government of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu demonstrates progress in the Middle East talks, officials said last night.

"There hasn't been any talk of freezing normalization with Israel and there won't be any mention of it in the final communiqué," Jordan's Information Minister Marwan Muasher said. Egypt also backed away from Syrian demands for linkage in normalization with Israel.

"Normalization is a decision taken by sovereign nations, not a collective decision," an Egyptian official said.

Still, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who opened the conference, warned that any decision by the Netanyahu government to annul the commitments of its predecessor would backfire.

"If any party allows itself to choose what to negotiate and what not," Mubarak said, "then this means that the other parties have the same right, which thus reverts the peace process to the zero point, or rather totally destroys it."

Mubarak said the Arabs want to resume negotiations, and would stick by their side of all agreements.

"We do not call for war or violence," he said. "There isn't among us anyone who wants to take the region back to the destruction of war or the phase of no war and no peace."

He said Israel must realize that only peace could provide true security for its citizens and the other peoples of the Middle East. "Security cannot be realized by the occupation of land and ignoring others' rights, not by adopting the concept of regional expansion and superiority, not by the stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction," he said.

In Israel, officials of Netanyahu's government said they would have no comment until the summit is over.

Behind the scenes, Mubarak has been trying to settle divisions among the Arab leaders. He succeeded in bringing together Syria's President Hafez Assad and two Arab leaders with whom he has deep differences, King Hussein of Jordan and PLO chief Yasser Arafat. (Story, Page 2.)

But Mubarak said "psychological obstacles" still divide the 13 heads of state and officials from eight other Arab League members who are attending the summit.

Jordan's King Hussein urged fellow Arab leaders not to over-react to Netanyahu's election.

"The most recent developments in the region must not lead us to panic," he said yesterday.

According to a text of the speech distributed after delivery to a closed session, the king said Arab states viewed the Middle East peace process as "the only available option; that it was the only possible means to bring the conflict to a just and lasting solution that can endure."

Hussein told the Arab summit that a just peace included Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, and securing Palestinian legitimate rights "on their national soil."

The agreement not to link normalization with Israel to progress in the peace process was a victory for Jordan. The Hashemite kingdom lobbied other Arab states to prevent issuing an ultimatum to Israel.

Instead, Jordan formed a coalition with Bahrain and Algeria to push summit participants to discuss terrorism. Jordan wanted to focus on alleged Syrian support for a recent wave of infiltration into the kingdom.

Bahrain demanded a discussion of alleged Iranian support for Shi'ite revolutionaries. Algeria pushed for talks on Arab support for its fundamentalist opponents.

"There is no terrorism that is acceptable and another that is unacceptable," Jordan's King Hussein told the closed session of the summit. "There is no terrorism that is legitimate and another that is illegitimate."

All of the delegates applauded. A Gulf delegate said the only exception was that of Syria, which sat motionless.

Arab officials said Bahrain recruited support for Jordan's position from the Gulf states. Algeria brought the endorsement from the Maghreb nations.

A draft summit communiqué appeals to the two original sponsors of the peace process - the United States and Russia - to guarantee that old agreements are implemented and that negotiations continue on the previously agreed principles.

But US President Bill Clinton's positive remarks on the Netanyahu government's policy guidelines are likely to disappoint the Arab leaders gathered in Cairo.

"I am pleased by the tone Prime Minister Netanyahu struck in the guidelines of the new government and in our conversation after the election last month," Clinton told the London-based Arabic-language newspaper *Al-Ahram*.

Meanwhile, in Florence, Italy, European leaders attending a summit yesterday urged a quick resumption of the Middle East peace talks.

"The European Union encourages all parties... to re-engage themselves in the peace process, to respect and implement fully all the agreements already reached and to resume negotiations as soon as possible..." the leaders of the 15 EU nations said, in a draft declaration issued at their two-day summit.

The leaders also condemned terrorism, "and will continue to support the parties in their fight against it, its perpetrators and its political, economic and social causes," the draft said.

The statement also called on Israel to lift the closure on the territories, saying, "The European Union recognizes the serious effects which the recent border closures are having on the Palestinian economy. It acknowledges the recent partial easing of the closure... [But] while recognizing Israel's security needs, it encourages Israel to lift completely the remaining restrictions."

News agencies contributed to this report.

Yeltsin kicks off new campaign trail

BREST, Belarus (AP) - Choosing a patriotic theme for his first trip of the presidential runoff campaign, Russia's Boris Yeltsin visited an important Soviet war memorial yesterday on the anniversary of the Nazi invasion.

Yeltsin's stop at the site of a destroyed fortress in Brest appeared aimed at drawing support from veterans, pensioners and nationalist Russians who tend to back Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov.

State-controlled Russian television, in rare live coverage of a presidential trip outside Russia, showed Yeltsin delivering a short speech and laying a wreath as a largely older crowd looked on.

Appearing with him was Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, whose Soviet-era rhetoric and policies have made him popular with Communist sympathizers.

Two rallies marking the anniversary were held yesterday in Minsk, the capital. One organized by Communists and others drew 5,000 people, and a second led by anti-Lukashenko opposition drew 10,000 protesters. Both rallies

were peaceful. Nationalist opposition to Lukashenko has been growing in recent months, and past anti-government demonstrations have seen police crackdowns and violent clashes.

Brest is located in western Belarus on what was once the Soviet Union's western border and for more than a month it resisted the Nazi onslaught that began on June 22, 1941.

In a decree issued this year, Yeltsin declared that the date be honored annually in Russia as the official Day of Remembrance and Mourning.

"Today I am in Brest because here our great victory began," Yeltsin said.

He said he wanted to pay tribute to the defenders, saying their "endless courage became a symbol of heroism and strength."

Noting the union treaty signed between the two countries in April, he said: "We believe that we will be able to revive flourishing Russia and flourishing Belarus."

Belarus has asked Russia for more than 3 trillion rubles (\$600 million) to prop up 23 companies, Yeltsin said, according to the Interfax news agency. But Russia is unable to assume such an obligation and has asked Belarus to trim the list to four or five companies, the report said.

US probing reports of Egypt-N. Korea Scud deal

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States said on Friday it is investigating reports that North Korea recently supplied Scud missile materials to Egypt.

Officials said, however, that the intelligence community is divided over what exactly may have taken place.

They were responding to a story in the *Washington Times* based on a Central Intelligence Agency report. The newspaper said that following seven North Korean shipments of Scud-related materials in March and April, Egypt could soon begin producing short-range missiles.

Such a transfer could have implications for US policy. Egypt, the second-largest recipient of US aid, receives about \$2 billion annually from Washington. North Korea has been promised \$4.5 billion in advanced nuclear technology and alternate energy supplies in a deal with the United States aimed at ending Pyongyang's nuclear program.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters that Washington takes such reports as the Scud materials transfer "very seriously" and "we'll look into this."

But he said he had "no idea" if the reports are true, and at any rate "we have not determined that there has been any violation of US

(anti-proliferation) law" that could require the imposition of sanctions.

The CIA declined comment, and other officials were reluctant to speak about information that is considered highly classified.

An opportunity to raise the matter could arise Wednesday when

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher holds talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on Middle East peace efforts and other matters.

In London, meanwhile, a report in *Jane's International Defense Review* says Israel and

(Continued on Page 2)



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Mubarak brings together Assad, Hussein and Arafat

CAIRO (AP) — On the sidelines of the Arab summit, President Hosni Mubarak brought together bickering Arab leaders and gained promises they will try to resolve their differences.

Shortly before the summit opened yesterday, Mubarak arranged a meeting between King Hussein of Jordan and Syrian President Hafez Assad. He brought Assad together with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Friday night.

Assad, who favors a comprehensive peace agreement between all Arab states and Israel, was angered when Arafat reached an interim pact in 1993. He also was upset by Jordan's making peace with Israel a year later.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency quoted informed sources as saying that the three leaders promised to put aside differences and end attacks on each other in their media.

"Both myself and his excellency President Assad are comfortable with this meeting," Hussein was quoted as saying by the Egyptian news agency. He said that he and Assad had not overcome all their differences but added, "we have made a good start."

At a news conference later, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa referred to the Assad-Hussein session as a very good meeting. "They expressed their

views. It was one of the very positive developments that have taken place," he said.

Arafat aide Nabil Shaath said the PLO leader's meeting with Assad meant a reconciliation was near. But Assad and Arafat have had a particularly rocky relationship and were at odds for years before the PLO's 1993 pact with Israel.

Mubarak acknowledges that "psychological obstacles" still divide the 13 heads of state and officials from eight other Arab League members attending the summit.

The Egyptian president also made a gesture toward settling his own country's dispute with the Islamic fundamentalist regime in neighboring Sudan. Egypt has accused Sudan of supporting Egyptian Islamic militants and of orchestrating an unsuccessful assassination attempt on Mubarak last year.

Mubarak met Sudanese President Lt.-Gen. Omar Hassan Bashir at the airport when he arrived Friday, and embraced him. But the two men appeared distant as they stood viewing the honor guard, and they have not met alone on the sidelines yet.

Mubarak said that the summit's main reason was "to work on uniting the Arab fold," but the various presidents and emirs have a long list of recriminations to overcome.

Islamic militants urge Arab leaders to end peacemaking with Israel

News agencies

HAMAS urged Arab leaders convening in Cairo yesterday to stop peacemaking with Israel and to cancel all agreements with it.

It also called on the Arab world to support the "popular resistance" of the Palestinians against Israel.

The Hamas letter, a copy of which was obtained yesterday by the Associated Press, said Netanyahu's victory showed that Israel was ultimately hostile to the Arab world, and warned Israel would try to expand its control in the region. Hamas also warned of civil war among Palestinians if Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority continued its campaign against Hamas and other militant

groups who violently oppose the peace process.

"Arab leaders should pressure the authority of the autonomy to stop its oppressive measures which will undermine the unity of the Palestinian people and will likely trigger an internal conflict."

In Damascus, the Islamic Jihad said yesterday it would continue armed resistance against Israel and also urged Arab leaders meeting in Cairo to halt all forms of normalization with Israel. "We will not throw our weapons while our holy Jerusalem is still under the control of the aggressors who race to consider it their eternal united capital," Islamic Jihad said.

Gaddafi flouts UN embargo, flies to Arab summit

STEVE RODAN

CAIRO

LIBYAN leader Muammar Gaddafi ignored the UN ban on flights from Libya and flew to Cairo to attend the Arab summit.

Airport sources said Gaddafi flew straight from Tripoli to Cairo to make the summit's opening session, flouting the four-year-old flight ban imposed by the UN on Libya for its refusal to hand over for trial two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland. Egypt is the current president of the UN Security Council.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa admitted it had not asked the UN for permission to allow Gaddafi to land. "It was too short notice," he said.

But he acknowledged that Gaddafi's arrival was not a surprise and that Egypt had been in contact with Libya to ensure its participation in the summit.

"President Gaddafi is a guest and member of the Arab League of nations. So all the other details will be taken care of," Moussa added.

Gaddafi confirmed he had flown straight from Tripoli. "And I will go back by plane if Egyptian security lets me," he added, speaking at an appearance on the staircase of his Cairo hotel.

"Flight controllers at Cairo air-

port were surprised this morning by the approach from the west, from Libya, of two planes in spite of the flight ban," a source in Egypt's civil aviation authority said.

He declined to say if the flight controllers asked the two planes, carrying Gaddafi and his delegation, to turn back. Both planes landed in Cairo.

Gaddafi arrived just three hours before President Hosni Mubarak opened the summit. The other 13 visiting heads of state spent Friday night in Cairo.

In April, Libya flew 115 Moslem pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, prompting criticism from the United Nations Security Council which called it a "totally unacceptable" violation of the 1992 flight ban.

The council also reminded member states of their obligations "in the event that Libyan-registered aircraft land in their territory."

In his hotel appearance, Gaddafi said that as far as Libya was concerned, the change of government in Israel was irrelevant.

"In west Africa and Libya we don't even know the difference between Likud and Labor. We only know that Israel is occupying our land," he said.

News agencies contributed to this report

Giant of Yiddish film dies at 96

GREAT NECK, New York (AP) — Yiddish filmmaker Joseph Green, whose movies provided a rare glimpse of Jewish life in Eastern Europe before the Holocaust, has died. He was 96.

The Polish native, who lost three sisters in the Holocaust, was credited with bringing Yiddish film to artistic and popular heights in both Poland and the US before World War II.

His first exposure to the film business was a walk-on role in the first talking movie, *The Jazz Singer*, with Al Jolson. He returned to his native Poland to begin work on his Yiddish films, working feverishly to complete them as the Nazi menace grew.

He produced four films between 1935-39, the last two in a single year. "For nearly 12 months, we didn't leave the studio — time was running out," he said in a 1985 *NY Jewish Week* interview. "We had to get onto film as much as possible of that charming and creative life in Poland."

His first movie, *Fiddle with a Fiddle*, was a hit in New York and Poland. Despite the Nazi persecution, it was even shown to Jewish audiences in Berlin in 1938.



Two Palestinian youths set fire to a steamroller near Samia after demonstrations against the building of a bypass road turned violent on Friday. (Reuters)

IDF probing guards who allowed youths to torch road-building vehicles at bypass

JON IMMANUEL

THE IDF is investigating whether the contractors responsible for guarding road-building vehicles were negligent, after local youths from the village of Samia near Hebron set fire to them on Friday to protest construction of a bypass road.

Military sources said that the two guards on duty should have been armed with automatic rifles and communication equipment but only had a single pistol between them.

Youths came from Samia, some three kilometers from the work site, and began stoning the vehicles before igniting one with gasoline.

The IDF imposed a curfew on the village and arrested six youths.

A fatwa issued in Gaza took up the protests of the Samia villagers and sent a message to the Arab summit in Cairo from "The Palestinian force of political activists" warning that land confiscations will not be tolerated. Some Fatah activists have warned of cooperation between Fatah and Hamas to prevent land expropriations. On Friday, Prime Minister

Binyamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Foreign Minister David Levy received briefings from IDF and security officials on Hebron. They received details concerning the interim agreement with the Palestinians on redeployment, and their implications. No decisions were taken at the meeting.

Meanwhile, a group of Israeli journalists visiting Hebron yesterday at the invitation of Mayor Mustafa Natshe and Gush Shalom leader Uri Avnery were prevented by Border Police from entering the area to remain under IDF control. The Border Police said they were protecting the journalists from settlers who did not like them entering the area on Shabbat.

Natshe maintained that the previous government had been deceptive during negotiations. "They promised to open the gates of the university, so they opened the front gates and kept the university closed," he said.

Nevertheless, what was signed must be observed, he said. "We refuse any change in Oslo I or II. We and the government must respect the signature of the previous government."

He said that if the Tomb of the Patriarchs eventually falls under Palestinian rule then it should be open to visits from people of all faiths but as a mosque it should be a place of prayer only for Moslems. "There is no mosque in the world that is divided between Moslems and others."

There will be 400 Palestinian police in the 85% of Hebron under Palestinian police control, but unarmed inspectors will be permitted in the 15% under IDF control. The meeting with Natshe was also attended by Mohammed Milhem, former mayor of nearby Halhoul who was expelled in 1980 by then defense minister Ezer Weizman after Palestinian gunmen shot dead six settlers outside Beit Hadassah. Milhem returned recently from Amman.

Parents of terror victims ask Ne'eman to delay further implementation of Oslo accords

THE parents of two terror victims

asked Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman to delay implementing further stages of the Oslo accords — including the evacuation of Hebron — until the Palestinian Authority extradites the murder suspects to Israel.

The parents of Ori Shohor and Ohad Bachrach, who were killed by terrorists while hiking in Wadi Kelt a year ago, made this request during a meeting with Ne'eman on Friday.

The two suspects escaped to Jericho immediately after the

killing, where they were hastily tried by the PA to forestall an Israeli extradition request. Both were sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Under the Oslo accords, the PA does not have to extradite someone who is serving a prison sentence in the autonomous areas. However, a legal opinion by Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair stated that a trial held deliberately to forestall extradition does not absolve the PA of its obligation to transfer the suspects to Israel.

There is also considerable doubt as to how much of their sentence the two will actually serve, since, according to a Peace Watch report, almost half the prisoners sentenced to lengthy terms by the PA were released within a few months.

In an interview with Israel Radio, Dov Shohor noted that while former justice minister David Liba'i had been sympathetic to the families' demands from a moral standpoint, and had submitted a formal extradition request for the suspects, he was political-

ly opposed to delaying implementation of the accords. Shohor said he hoped the new government would feel differently.

Ne'eman promised the families that he would study the legal aspects of the issue within the near future and report on them to the prime minister. However, he did not promise to take any specific action.

The official also said that the US remains engaged with Arab leaders in an attempt to ensure their Cairo summit this weekend produces positive statements regarding Israel.

He acknowledged that the Palestinians have expressed "serious concern" about Netanyahu's plans, but said that "at the same time, there's been no backing away."

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IDF arrests four Lebanese in security zone

DAVID RUDGE

IDF troops arrested three Lebanese civilians and an off-duty policeman in the security zone on Friday, according to reports from the region.

The French news agency AFP said the four were apprehended at a roadblock which was set up in order to question residents about Hizbullah's activities in the region.

According to the reports, they were arrested on the northern perimeter of the zone, north of the Beaufort Castle. The IDF had no official comment on the matter.

Last week, a Lebanese journalist working for AFP was arrested in

Marjayoun and later brought to Israel for questioning, allegedly on suspicion of providing information to Hizbullah.

According to reports from the region, the man, Ali Dia, was responsible for filming the roadside bomb attack in Marjayoun at the end of last month in which four IDF soldiers were killed.

Dia, whose arrest was subsequently confirmed by the IDF, also works for Future Television, which is owned by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and for the Beirut daily *As-Safir*.

03-6975183

Pope praises German church opposition to Nazis

PADERBORN, Germany (AP) — Pope John Paul II praised four German church figures yesterday for opposing the Nazis, but did not deliver prepared remarks claiming the Church played a broad role in the resistance to Hitler's regime.

The remarks had appeared to contradict his own German bishops who have said the Church did not do enough to fight Nazism and condemn the Holocaust.

Vatican spokesman Joaquín Navarro-Valls said the full text, which had been distributed beforehand to news media, should be considered an official papal pronouncement. But he offered no explanation of why John Paul skipped that passage at a Mass before 70,000 people.

Asked why the pope dropped it, he said "I have no idea."

The pope was setting the stage for a ceremony today in Berlin when he will beatify a priest who died in jail after giving sermons against persecution of the Jews, and another priest who was sent to concentration camps for expressing regret that Hitler had not been killed in an assassination attempt.

The pope also cited two

Germanos who were beatified in 1987 — a Jewish woman who became a nun and died in the Auschwitz gas chamber, and a Jesuit priest who survived Nazi persecution.

He said they were a "sign of the resistance to the demonic forces in a world remote from God."

The Polish-born pope, speaking at a Mass, dropped the following two paragraphs:

"The four beatified persons symbolize the many Catholic women and men who, at the cost of many and diverse sacrifices, rejected National Socialist tyranny and resisted the brown ideology."

"They are thus part of the resistance offered by the whole Church to a system contemptuous of God and human beings. And, in the final analysis, they symbolize many people who, on the strength of their resistance and sacrifices, succeeded in keeping alive their trust in the good in humans and a different and better Germany."

The Catholic church in Germany says that 8,021 priests were detained for activities viewed as a threat to the Nazi regime, 110 died in concentra-

tion camps and 59 were executed.

But on the eve of the visit, Rudolf Hammerschmidt, a spokesman for the German Catholic Bishops' Conference, acknowledged that the Church "did not speak out clearly against the persecution of Jews early enough."

John Paul has won praise from Jews for being the first pope to visit a synagogue, for speaking out against anti-Semitism and for leading the Vatican to officially recognize Israel.

Speeches for the pope's 72 foreign trips are generally written by local bishops and sent to the Vatican for review before going to the pope.

John Paul also omitted a non-controversial passage on the role of Christianity in the future of Europe.

The pope's three-day visit to Germany has a two-fold mission: examining German history and scoring up a German church rocked by dissent.

An estimated 70,000 people, most sitting under colorful umbrellas, turned out for the Mass held on an airstrip on a damp summer morning.

Business as usual for post-mad cow EU

News agencies
FLORENCE

NO agreement on fighting unemployment. Britain isolated over crime-fighting. Lackluster talks with Eastern Europe. It was back to business as usual at the post-beef war European Union.

The Florence summit got off to a nip-roaring start yesterday when the 15 EU leader wrapped up a deal to end a crisis over mad cow disease that crippled EU business for weeks.

The agreement to phase out a ban on British beef exports persuaded Prime Minister John Major to lift his campaign of blocking Union decisions. But hopes of an immediate outbreak of European harmony proved premature.

Hours after the deal, was sealed Britain again stood alone over plans to set up a pan-European police unit. At least the leaders cobbled together a compromise that allows the Europol force to start up, but exempts Britain from key provisions.

A spat over money froze out spending on a public works program to cut the EU's 15 million strong army of unemployed.

"In Florence, the European Council took note of lots of things, but decided little," said Klaus Haensch, president of the EU's parliament.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl appeared unfazed by the lack of progress.

"In Europe we go forward step by step, not by giant strides," Kohl told reporters after the two-day, twice-yearly gathering of EU presidents and prime ministers.

Other officials wearily acknowledged Britain's acrimonious beef war with the other 15 nations had left a hangover from which the Union needs time to recover.

"Because of the crisis over the mad cow disease, there's need for a new impetus and new momentum in the European family," Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring told reporters.

The Irish get an early the chance to inject some new life.

They take over the EU presidency from the Italians on July 1 and have already called a special European summit for October to carry on work left undone by the mad cow-tainted Italian stint.

But Prime Minister John Bruton appeared less than confident that meeting would produce a great leap forward. "I'm at pains to lower expectations," he told a news conference. "We'll only talk about ... reaching a better understanding."

Topping the agenda there will be negotiations to revamp the Union's founding treaty in a way to tie members closer together and streamline the EU workings before it throws open the doors to new members from eastern Europe.

The Union says it will start membership talks with the leading group of candidates within six months of concluding the overhaul.

The group is expected to include Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic together with Cyprus and Malta. They hope to join around the turn of the century.

As usual, leaders of former Communist candidate nations were invited for the second day of the summit. But such visits are routine now and rarely lead to the easterners getting clearer indications of

when exactly they'll be allowed in.

"Today brought us closer to the EU — by just one day," said Hungarian Foreign Minister László Kovács.

European Commission President Jacques Santer failed yesterday to persuade EU leaders to put aside more money for large transport networks, a key plank in his effort to spur jobs growth.

Santer's "pact of confidence for employment," a multi-faceted strategy to tackle Europe's high rate of joblessness, ran into trouble when several countries resisted the proposed funding for the projects at the EU summit here.

At a final news conference Santer, acknowledging it was regrettable EU leaders failed to back his financing plan, expressed satisfaction that the bulk of his broad initiative was supported.

"We're very pleased at the fact that the confidence pact enjoyed political support," said Santer. "I don't think there is any failure at all."

Germany in particular resisted the effort to raise 1.0 billion Ecu (\$1.24 billion) between 1997 and 1999 for priority rail and road networks. The financing of the Trans-European Networks (TENs) has long been a controversial issue for the EU, with many governments reluctant to commit more funds to such projects.

Privately, EU officials said the failure to secure the funds disappointed Santer, worried that too much attention was being focused on only one part of his jobs program.

The TENs financing plan is one of the few areas of Santer's pact where fresh money is proposed to tackle Europe's jobs problem.

Judge orders Unabomber moved to California

HELENA, Mont. (Reuters) — A federal judge has ordered Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski moved from Montana to California to face charges that he carried out four bomb attacks, two of them fatal.

Kaczynski, who appeared animated at the 20-minute hearing in US District Court in Helena, said he had no objection to the request that he be moved to Sacramento, where he was indicted this week on charges stemming from the Unabomber's 17-year anti-technology campaign of violence.

US marshals in Sacramento said Kaczynski would arrive there tomorrow evening on a US government plane. Security is expected to be tight.

At the court hearing, US District Judge Charles Lowell also agreed to a prosecutor's request to dismiss explosives charges against Kaczynski in Montana as a formality to allow him to be moved to California.

Kaczynski, 54, wearing tan

pants, a green dress shirt and a beige tweed jacket that he quickly shed, appeared relaxed, smiling and talking with his court-appointed attorneys. Asked whether he felt well and whether he had been treated well, he responded "yes" in a clear, firm voice.

The Harvard-educated former mathematics professor turned backwoods recluse was arrested at his small cabin outside Lincoln, Montana, on April 3.

A federal grand jury in Sacramento handed up an indictment on Tuesday formally accusing him for the first time of being the Unabomber who planted or mailed 16 bombs that killed three people and injured 23 between 1978 and 1995.

Usually, the US Marshal's Service does not reveal details of prisoners' movements in advance. But Mike Nelson, chief deputy US Marshal in Sacramento, told reporters that Kaczynski would be flown to Sacramento tomorrow aboard a government plane.

Sinn Fein under pressure after bomb factory find

DUBLIN (Reuters) — Sinn Fein was under renewed pressure to break with IRA violence yesterday after Irish police uncovered an IRA arms factory where mortar bombs were being refurbished for the IRA war on Britain.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton expressed outrage at the fact that the find was made at a time when the Irish Republican Army's political wing, Sinn Fein, was saying it was committed to peaceful means of ending British rule of Northern Ireland.

Opposition leader Mary Harney urged Bruton's government to break all links with Sinn Fein after the discovery of the bomb factory south of Dublin, and the IRA's bombing of the English city of Manchester last weekend.

"As democrats we have a duty to distance ourselves from those who move between violence and peace when they see fit," she told parliament.

Irish police said they had arrested seven people in a raid on

a farm where they uncovered a bomb factory and a nearby bunker where arms, including mortar tubes, were stored. Security sources said 16 "bar-rack-buster" homemade IRA mortar bombs were being refurbished at the time.

Three men appeared in a Dublin court Friday charged with having 16 improvised mortar bombs containing semtex plastic explosive, the IRA's favored charge.

The factory was uncovered in the search for the killers of Irish policeman Jerry McCabe, who was killed in a botched IRA robbery attempt in the southern town of Adare two weeks ago. The murder outraged Irish public opinion.

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, smarting at pressure from the government, hit back.

"Others are now asking what contribution to rebuilding the peace process is made by Mr Bruton's current strategy of attacking the Sinn Fein leadership," he said in a statement.

US still opposes reelection of Boutros-Ghali

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The United States insisted yesterday its decision to oppose Boutros-Ghali's re-appointment is irrevocable despite the UN chief's expressed hope that Washington would change its mind.

"We would hope that Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali would come to see that our decision is irrevocable and we must turn our attention to identifying another candidate ... Our minds will not be changed," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

He said the issue of the UN chief's successor was expected to be a key topic of discussion at the Group of Seven summit in Lyon, France next week and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meeting in Jakarta in late July.


The Clinton administration, setting off a major clash over who will lead the United Nations into the 21st century, said it would oppose Boutros-Ghali's re-election to a second five-year term in December and would use its

Security Council veto if necessary. But Boutros-Ghali, 73, told reporters in Bonn: "I still hope that the United States will change its position. We still have six months until the elections." He announced he would seek a second five-year term after turning down a US compromise offer for a one-year extension.

The UN faces its worst crisis in years, with debts mounting daily, due mainly to the \$1.5 billion the United States owes.

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Seoul braces for violence during Hashimoto visit

LIM YUN-SUK
SEOUL

SECURITY was beefed up around Japan's embassy in Seoul yesterday as South Korea braced for violence during the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who is on a fence-mending mission.

Hashimoto faces protests from dozens of anti-Japanese groups, ranging from former Japanese sex slaves to left-wing students, when he arrives yesterday evening.

"Police have been stationed at the embassy and other areas where we think students may attack or hold protests at the time of the Japanese premier's visit," a Seoul police official said.

The Japanese premier is scheduled to hold summit talks with South Korean President Kim Young-sam on the resort island of Cheju off the southern tip of the Korean peninsula.

He is expected to tread lightly over emotional issues such as a dispute over ownership of a group of tiny islands and focus instead on building harmony needed to ensure a successful co-hosting of the 2002 World Cup soccer finals.

North Korea will also feature prominently. Japan and South Korea were jointly awarded the World Cup after an

acrimonious bidding contest that laid bare decades of hurt and anger in Korea.

Japan ruled the Korean peninsula as a colony from 1910-45, trampling over local culture and dragging off tens of thousands of young Korean women to brothels used by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War Two.

On Friday 500 anti-Japanese protesters gathered in a Seoul park near the Tokyo embassy to demand an apology from Hashimoto for Japanese atrocities during colonial rule and official compensation.

Among them were a small group of former sex slaves, so-called "comfort women".

The protesters threatened to disrupt the summit.

The main opposition National Congress for New Politics yesterday demanded the government press the comfort women issue.

"The South Korean government should ask Japan to repent, apologize and compensate the comfort women," a statement said. "Proper relations between South Korea and Japan cannot be realized until past

issues are settled".

Hashimoto's trip to South Korea, his first since he took office, is viewed by Seoul officials as largely symbolic, though in addition to discussing the World Cup they are likely to coordinate policies on North Korea.

Japan and South Korea work closely with United States on formulating an approach to food aid to Pyongyang and on ways to entice North Korea to peace talks.

US President Bill Clinton and President Kim jointly proposed peace talks in April. They would include China and are aimed at replacing an armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War with a lasting peace arrangement.

North Korea has yet to reply. South Korean media reports said the comfort women issue would not be discussed by the two leaders, but by their foreign ministers.

The domestic Yonhap news agency quoted an unnamed Seoul official as saying Foreign Minister Gong Ro-myung would tell his Japanese counterpart Yukihiko Ikeda that Koreans strongly oppose a private Japanese fund set up to compensate comfort women.

(Reuters)

Turkey coalition talks stalled

ANKARA (Reuters) - Coalition talks that could give Turkey's powerful Islamists their biggest government role in the secular country's modern history were no nearer yesterday to filling a nine-month-old power vacuum.

Turkey, which has tense relations from neighbours Greece, Cyprus and Syria, has shied away from dealing with the outside world while its leaders score political points against each other but fail to set up a stable government.

Harsh measures that economists say are needed to improve the ailing economy are also not in sight.

Conservative leader Tansu Ciller asked for more time to debate other alternatives before taking the plunge into a government alliance with the pro-Islamic Welfare Party. She told Welfare head Necmettin Erbakan that she would give him a "clear and definite answer" to a coalition offer next Tuesday after consulting with a left-wing leader.

Former prime minister Ciller, under increasing pressure from the secularist establishment for even considering a pact with the Islamists, had previously promised an answer on Thursday.

Whitewater prosecutor to probe White House on FBI files

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Whitewater special prosecutor has won approval to investigate whether criminal laws had been broken in the Clinton White House's obtaining of confidential FBI files on prominent Republicans and others.

A US Court of Appeals ordered Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth Starr to expand his already wide-ranging probe to the politically sensitive case on whether the White House improperly requested and received hundreds of FBI files.

The court told Starr to focus on any violation of federal criminal law by Anthony Marceca, a US Army investigator who worked at the White House from August 1993 through February 1994 and originally asked for the FBI background files.

It said Starr should determine whether Marceca, a temporary White House employee accused of submitting inaccurate request forms for the FBI files, committed a knowing and willful false statement.

Starr also received the power to investigate whether any other person engaged in an unlawful conspiracy, aided in any federal offence, obstructed

justice or made false testimony or statements in connection with the controversy.

The appeals court said Starr can seek indictments and prosecute cases if appropriate.

At issue is whether the White House improperly sought and obtained sensitive FBI files on more than 400 people, including Republicans such as former Secretary of State James Baker and Reagan White House aide Kenneth Duberstein.

The special three-judge panel of the appeals court, which has authority over all special prosecutor cases, acted a day after Attorney General Janet Reno recommended that Starr take over the investigation from the FBI.

Reno cited a "political conflict of interest" with the FBI conducting an investigation of a matter in which it had been involved.

Reno said Marceca, who worked in the White House Office of Personnel Security, requested the FBI files, asserting the information was needed because the individuals required access to the White House.

Ekeus: Iraq to grant UN inspectors unrestricted access

BAGHDAD (AP) - Iraq has agreed to grant UN weapons inspectors immediate and unrestricted access to sites suspected of housing banned weapons material, UN chief arms inspector Rolf

Ekeus said yesterday.

"The Iraqi government assures ... to secure unconditional, unrestricted and immediate access to all sites the Special Commission and the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) wish to inspect," Ekeus, a Swedish diplomat, told a news conference held at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry in Baghdad.

Ekeus heads the UN Special Commission in charge of dismantling Iraq's mass destruction arsenal in compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions which ended the 1991 Gulf War over Kuwait.

Addressing the same news conference, Iraq's deputy foreign minister, Riyadh al-Qaissi, said:

"I am glad to say we reached agreement on all that we've discussed (with Ekeus) ... a joint program of action has been reached with the necessary arrangements that both sides see to it being a success."

Qaissi gave no details of the "program of action" but his announcement and that by Ekeus signalled the end of the latest

standoff between Iraq and UN weapons inspectors.

Ekeus arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday in a bid to convince Iraqi authorities to allow his inspectors to search sites suspected of housing banned weapons material.

Iraq last week denied them access to military sites in and around Baghdad, saying the inspectors included US army officers who wanted to spy on its military.

The UN Security Council has demanded that the inspection teams have unconditional access to the sites.

The United Nations imposed crippling economic sanctions on Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The world body will only consider lifting the sanctions if Iraq destroys its mass destruction arsenal, pays war reparations and accounts for some 600 people Kuwait says have gone missing during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

A US-led international coalition force threw Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in the Gulf War.

Pentagon probes whether US troops were exposed to chemical gas in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Pentagon is taking another look at the chance US soldiers may have been exposed to chemical gas following the Gulf War.

The new study is being conducted because the United Nations has provided information indicating an Iraqi ammunition bunker destroyed by US troops in March 1991 may have contained chemical weapons, Pentagon officials said.

Some 300 to 400 members of the Army's 37th Engineering Battalion from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, were involved in the operation at the postwar demolition of an Iraqi weapons cache known as Kamisiyah depot in southern Iraq, the officials said.

The soldiers were trained specialists and did not believe at the time that one of the bunkers they were destroying contained chemical weapons. Detection equipment they used before and after the demolition showed no indication of the presence of chemical agents, officials said.

The soldiers were about three miles (five kilometers) from the site when the bunker was detonated and were not wearing protective cloth-

ing at the time of the operation, the officials said.

In a statement, President Clinton said: "While we have no evidence today that Americans were exposed to chemical weapons during the operation, this is a very important issue which we will continue to investigate thoroughly."

Up until Friday, US government officials have repeatedly stated that they did not have any hard evidence that soldiers complaining of ailments in the wake of the Gulf War were exposed to chemical warfare.

They said they were going public with their latest information in the hopes soldiers involved in the operation might provide some assistance to their investigation.

However, the officials indicated that the evidence of the presence of chemical weapons in the bunker may have been available to UN officials as far back as 1991, but somehow was not pursued.

Defense Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon still insisted "no evidence" exists that the Iraqis used chemical weapons during the war, and no "clinical evidence" exists that troops were ever exposed to chemicals.

Bangladesh will have new government in days

DHAKA (Reuters) - Bangladesh can expect its new government to be appointed in the next two days following acceptance of general election results by former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia, officials said yesterday.

They said it was almost certain President Abdur Rahman Biswas would invite Sheikh Hasina, leader of the centrist Awami League which won most seats in June 12 elections to name her government.

"All barriers on the way to appointing the new administration have been removed," said one.

Awami League sources said Hasina, daughter of the country's slain independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was already dis-

cussing forming a government with her policy planners.

"Hectic negotiations over the possible size and shape of the new cabinet are going on," one said. The BNP's decision to join parliament removed doubts over whether Bangladesh could achieve a smooth transfer of power after the poll.

The BNP won 116 seats against 146 for Awami League in elections described by international monitors as free and mostly peaceful.

The League failed to gain an absolute majority of the 299 seats declared but the third-placed Jatiya Party of jailed ex-president Hossain Mohammed Ershad and another group have said they will support it.

African summit to discuss violence in Burundi

DAR ES SALAAM (AP) - Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa has called a meeting of African leaders to review diplomatic efforts to stop violence in Burundi.

The presidents of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Zaire will meet in the northern town of Arusha today, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said yesterday.

Burundi President Sylvestre Ntibunganya was in Tanzania Friday for preliminary discussions

with Mkapa and former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, a mediator in the Burundi conflict.

The Burundi leader briefed his hosts on the conflict in his tiny central African country and pledged to keep contributing to the peace process under Nyerere's leadership, a Tanzanian statement said.

Since October 1993, when the country's first democratically elected Hutu president was assassinated by Tutsi army paratroopers, at least 100,000 people, most of them civilians, have been killed in ethnic violence.

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Newspapers caught in the Web

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

INSTEAD of being the beginning of the end for printed newspapers, electronic journalism is providing a shot in the arm for hundreds of papers around the world by reaching out to new readers via the Internet. So far, few are charging for on-line subscriptions, hoping instead to become profitable by seeking advertisers.

With the number of Internet users in the tens of millions and growing by the day, sending out news stories, features, columns and cartoons over telephone lines is very efficient.

Printing them on expensive newsprint, distributing and delivering them to a newsstand or a subscriber's front door is very expensive. Presenting them in an electronic format and sending them to readers over the Internet is relatively cheap.

Producing Internet editions of newspapers is a good way of capturing a younger audience that feels more comfortable with a computer mouse than a paper in their hands. It will also eventually lead to customized electronic news packages: subscribers ordering specific kinds of stories delivered to their E-mail address instead of a uniform printed paper to their front door.

Among the prominent newspapers to have set up Internet editions are London's *Daily Telegraph*, the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *Jerusalem Post*, all of them owned by the Hollinger Group. Each has gone about it in a different way.

The *Electronic Telegraph* offers 40 to 50% of its daily paper on line, completely free, but it requests that users register their name, address and various demographic information.

"This gives us a good picture of who is out there," says Hugo Drayton, the *Daily Telegraph's* marketing director and publisher of the *Electronic Telegraph* edition.

"We have 250,000 registered users, and today, 16,000 of them logged on, accessing a total of 180,000 pages. Two-fifths of the users are outside the United Kingdom. The average age is 25 to 45, about 85% of them men, but women users are growing."

Drayton says that because so many of the users are young men, the most popular articles on the service relate to sports, general news, crossword puzzles and cartoons.

The Internet edition is attracting a growing number of advertisers, whose logos are prominently displayed every time the service comes up. If the user wishes, he clicks with his mouse on the ad to get more information.

"We had initially thought of charging subscribers, like *The New York Times*, but we decided against it and to depend on advertisers for income."

"We're still feeling our way. Classified advertising is very promising, but display advertisements are more difficult to obtain. In the long term, there will probably be a new model."

Initially there were fears that giving even some of the articles might "cannibalize" readership of our printed paper.

"However, the opposite has occurred. New readers, younger people who never read the paper before are reading it on the Internet," explains Drayton.

"Since we offer past material as well, it also serves as an electronic archive."

Drayton does not plan soon to offer sound or video accompaniments to stories, as users may not have enough computer memory and these extras take longer to download. But the *Electronic Telegraph* does offer many photographs and other graphic material to accompany stories.

As for the future of the newspaper printing industry, Drayton said "one should never say never, but I don't foresee printed newspapers disappearing. Some things, such as customization and searches for specific information, are easier on-line, but reading a printed newspaper on the bus or in the Underground is much more user friendly."

The *Daily Telegraph* is also participating in an experiment with the Israeli company Sciex, whose subsidiary Press Point has developed a system for printing out newspapers at electronic kiosks around the world.

"Papers could be purchased in areas difficult to reach by conventional distribution; a customer would simply order a copy, which would be printed out in less than half a minute."

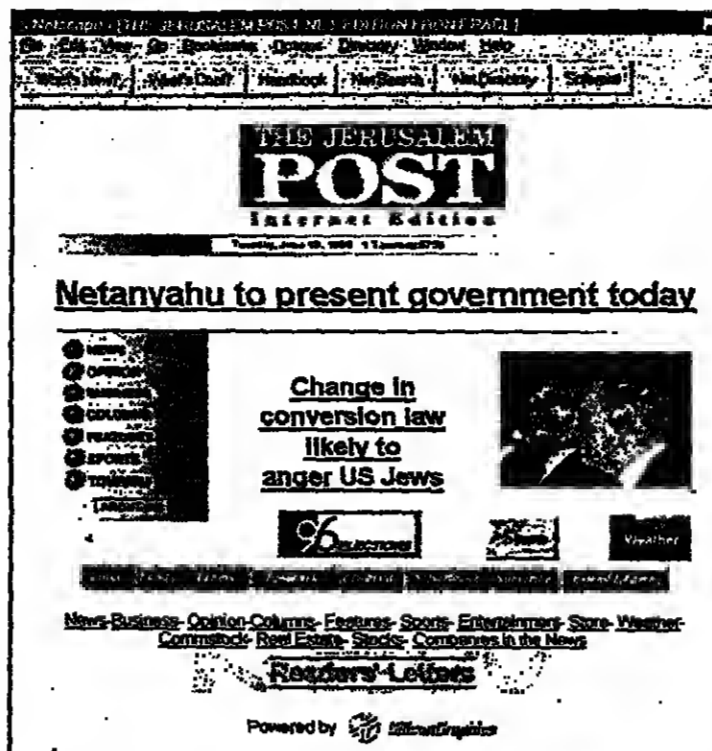
"This could be a good marriage between the user-friendliness of the printed paper and the applications of on-line newspapering," Drayton concludes.

The *Chicago Sun-Times* introduced its On-Line edition last October and has not required users to register, says Fred Lebolt, the paper's director of on-line publications.

"We decided not to launch a fee-based system, because at present, people who use the Internet are used to getting information free."

Lebolt says his on-line paper has been quite successful in getting advertising from banks, phone companies, retail chains, computer businesses and health-care companies — most of them in the Chicago area. "The vast majority of our on-line users are in the US, and our news focus is mostly domestic."

Since its users are not registered, Lebolt cannot give an accurate number of them, but the number of pages accessed, per week is 200,000. As at the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*



has found its electronic edition has not hurt regular circulation, even though about 60% of the paper is put on line.

Lebolt is optimistic about the future of newspapers. "One out of every five of our subscribers comes from a college or university. We need to attract younger readers, and we are doing this by going on line."

Some of the paper's most popular columns answer on-line questions from readers, and readers' letters can be sent by E-mail as well.

He also notes that the paper's reporters are increasingly gathering background information over the Internet. "While not everything on the Internet can be trusted, experienced reporters can assess this, and not everything said in a face-to-face interview is true either."

The *Jerusalem Post's* Internet Edition, which began last August, is believed to be the most popular Israeli Internet site. With 30 to 40% of the paper's material on line, it reaches many tens of thousands of individuals around the world, with 76% of its users in North America. "We are considering the idea of registering users so we can get more demographic information," says Nina Keren-David, director of electronic publishing at the *Post*.

Use of its on-line edition is growing. It has 15,000 weekly visitors on Shabbat and Sundays, possibly indicating that many users access it from their workplace, or that they are observant and do not use their computer on Shabbat.

Two weeks ago, the on-line edition was expanded and redesigned. Context, a company of young Tel Aviv University computer graduates, carried out the transformation. The *Post* purchased from Silicon Graphics a powerful server that is dedicated only to the

Internet edition instead of having to share it.

"This is like being located on a highway, instead of a small side street. It greatly speeds up access," says Keren-David, "and since delays in downloading are very annoying, this is very attractive to readers."

The re-designed edition offers news, features, opinion, columns, and even a weather map with temperatures around the country. There is a special section on the May 29 elections, with statistics and background material.

Readers' letters can easily be dispatched by E-mail, and since E-mail addresses are included, other users may directly contact opinionated readers to send their comments.

Users can click on *The Jerusalem Post's* shop, from which books, multimedia and other products can be ordered via credit card or by mail. There is also an advertising section.

"Some companies think all they have to do is put up their own home page on the World Wide Web, and that people will read it. But this is not so. The variety of available material is so great, and advertisers can be sure their message is being seen only on very popular sites like ours."

A completely new service is the *Post's* E-Mail Edition. Subscribers pay \$24.95 for six months and automatically receive, in their electronic mailbox, six days a week, the top daily stories from the paper in textual form (without photographs).

"This," says Keren-David, "is a boon for people who want material on Israel and the Middle East but lack the time to search for it. Eventually, we hope to offer a customized electronic newspaper according to the requests of each subscriber."

Reliable contraceptive implant now available here

A safe, very reliable contraceptive that must be injected every three months has been approved by the Health Ministry and put on the market. But the imported product, Depo Provera, is unlikely to be popular among large numbers of Israeli women, according to a senior Jerusalem gynecologist.

Depo Provera consists of a hormone that prevents ovulation and is the same material contained in Norplant, the contraceptive product recently approved for use here and implanted for several years under the skin of a woman's upper arm. However, says Prof. Joseph Schenker, chief of gynecology and obstetrics at Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem, both hormonal contraceptives cause sporadic bleeding in a large percentage of women who take it. Since many women observe the ritual purity laws, this will disrupt their schedule of going to the ritual bath and limit the period when sexual relations are halachically permissible. Depo Provera's reliability is slightly below that of the contraceptive pill, which prevents pregnancy in 99% of cases if taken properly.

Schenker, commenting on the release of Depo Provera on the local market, said it offers a number of benefits unlike the Pill, it doesn't have to be taken every day. Since it doesn't contain estrogen, it can be used by women with blood-clotting problems, migraine or hypertension and smokers over the age of 35. Women can also become fertile soon after stopping the injections. Its function is not affected by antibiotics, diarrhea or vomiting.

However, even non-religious women don't like the idea of sporadic bleeding between menstrual periods, and the average woman is unlikely to prefer going to a doctor for a shot every three months, on an exact schedule (the injection must be given during the first five days of one's period or five days after a nursing woman gives birth).

HEALTH SCAN JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

The drug, approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, is manufactured by Pharmacia-Upjohn and imported by Agis. The treatment costs less than a regimen of contraceptive pills. Schenker said certain groups of Israeli women may prefer it, but that Depo Provera (as well as Norplant) is most suited to women in the Third World for whom taking The Pill daily is difficult.

REPAIRING HEARTBURN BY KEYHOLE

A 51-year-old Beersheba woman has been the first patient at Soroka Hospital to undergo laparoscopic surgery to cure heartburn. The woman, a new immigrant, suffered from reflux, in which acids from the stomach rose through her esophagus and produced a bitter taste in her mouth and pain in her chest. Her case was severe, causing extreme discomfort; drug therapy was expensive and provided little relief. In the "keyhole surgery" technique, a tiny video camera was inserted through a small hole in her abdomen to strengthen the valve between the stomach and the lower part of the esophagus. A conventional open-abdomen operation would have required 10 days of hospitalization, but the patient was in hospital for less than three days.

WATCH OUT FOR SUMMER

Parents are urged to register their children only in summer camps that have a business license from the local authority and are supervised by the Health Ministry. The ministry says it is responsible for supervising the sanitary conditions (food storage, maintenance and toilets) of licensed summer camps, especially in overnight camps where cooking is done. Each toddler should have his own

plastic basin for "swimming"; a wading pool should not be used by more than one child, as the water is not circulated, filtered and chlorinated, posing the danger of bacterial infection. Summer camps may make arrangements only with swimming pools that have a license and are under ministry supervision, the spokeswoman said.

QUICK WORK SAVES BABY

A special respirator costing \$20,000 was flown in from the US in three days in a special effort by Kupat Holim Leumi to save the life of a four-month-old baby born to a Ness Ziona family. The boy, born with a rare congenital defect in his lungs, will require respiration for several years until his lungs are strong enough for him to be disconnected.

Leumi officials contacted the Newport Medical Institute in California that makes the device. Despite several connecting flights, the delicate device was flown here quickly without damage.

FATTENING COMPUTERS

Children are getting too fat, according to Kupat Holim Clalit, which runs a special diet counseling service for youngsters in Kiryat Shmaryahu, a suburb of Haifa. Dietitians there say that reduced physical activity, more TV watching and home computer use has caused many children to eat more snacks and soft drinks (a can of cola, for example, has the equivalent of five teaspoons of sugar).

Bad dietary habits are very apparent among children who immigrated from the former Soviet Union; the diet in their native country is also not conducive to fitness, but at least they were used to physical activity. Once they arrive, they quickly adopt the lazy habits of native Israelis. Doctors can refer their young patients to the clinic, whose phone number is (04) 878-9533.

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TELL ME WHY
JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Phones can't work without electricity. How is it possible that telephone function even when there is a total power failure? See, Haifa.

Ronnie Mandelbaum of the Bezeq's spokesman's office answers:

Bezeq's lines use electrical pulses that are very weak. But since we are not dependent on the Electric Corporation for our emergency power, phone service does not go down when there is a power failure.

In addition, all large Bezeq facilities have backup from large batteries that supply enough power for a few hours, until a generator can be brought in, or even as long as 24 hours. Most Bezeq vehicles have hooks on the back for pulling generators behind them. This backup system is found around the world. In none of the country's major power failures has Bezeq's phone service been disrupted.

The veins on a person's hands are blue, but if a finger is pricked, the blood comes out red. What's the explanation? Edward, Ramat Gan.

Prof. Avigdor Zelikovsky, head of the vascular department at Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petach Tikva, replies:

Blood in the veins contains less oxygen than that in arteries. As a result, blood from a pricked finger is reddish-bluish; arterial blood is a brighter red. In addition, the color of the veins themselves is somewhat bluish, and that's the way they look through the skin.

Does nightfall have any special effect on weather? Does the cooling-off due to lack of sun make it rain more, for example? Danny, Kiryat.

Prof. Avraham Zangvil, a meteorological expert at the institute for desert research at Ben-Gurion

University in the Negev, answers:

The sun is the driving force behind all weather phenomena. Without it, everything would be in a frozen state at minus 273 degrees. Usually, the diurnal (day-night) variations in solar radiation are linked with marked variations in temperature and sometimes in the wind. On the other hand, the immediate effect of the diurnal variations of solar radiation on the structure and the intensity of large-scale weather systems (such as cyclonic storms) is usually very small.

The effect of the diurnal temperature and wind variations is local and may also affect cloud formation in a limited area. For example, it is well known that along the Israeli coast there is considerably more cloudiness on summer mornings than during the day. Another phenomenon is the occasional formation of rain clouds near dawn over the Mediterranean Sea along the Israeli coast in late fall, causing local showers and thunderstorms. These clouds are formed by land-breeze blowing from land to sea because of the relatively warm sea surface temperatures.

In some parts of the American Mid-West, showers and thunderstorms often occur at night. These are related to the convergence of moist, southerly winds from the Gulf of Mexico with cool, downpouring air streams from the Rocky Mountains during the night. And, since sunset marks the end of surface solar heating, convective showers that may have developed during the afternoon because of this heating during summer (in continental mid-latitudes) will stop after sunset.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, c/o Jerusalem Post Science & Technology Reporter Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, 91000 Jerusalem, or fax it to (02) 389527. Please include your first name and place of residence. Calls will not be accepted.

Microscope sizes up conductivity

A new type of microscope that accurately and cheaply provides information on the conductive properties of substances in the tiniest sizes, has been developed by Hebrew University physicists.

The device, for which its developers recently won the university's Kaye Prize for Innovative Research, has been patented by Yissum, HU's research-and-development arm. One of the most important characteristics of a material is its electrical conductivity. In the field of microelectronics, it is vital to gather accurate information on conductivity down to the level of microns (thousandths of millimeters) or even smaller measurements.

The new microscope, developed by Prof. Dan Davidov, Dr. Michael Golosovsky and their research student Alexander Galkin of the Recah Institute of Physics, already provides data in sizes of 10 microns and is expected to get down to one micron.

The device was based on the near-field microscopy principle. The microscope's head is brought near to the substance to be examined and various waves are passed through it. The device was built with a crack through which unguided waves only a few millimeters long are passed. These hit the material (without destroying it) and return to the device, allowing exact measurement of the conductivity, and a computer then processes the data to turn it into pictures.

Previous microscopes using the near-field principle did not provide information about conductivity, says Davidov. The only industrial way to get data about conductivity of material in integrated circuits and chips without destroying them was by using electron microscopes that cost millions of dollars.

According to the HU team, their invention is much cheaper, easier to operate and does not require a vacuum for operation. A require a vacuum firm has already expressed interest in commercial-

NEW WORLDS POST SCIENCE REPORTER

izing the microscope for industrial use.

DRY RUN FOR BAGRUT

Pupils facing matriculation exams need all the help they can get. Now they will get a boost from a new computer program aimed at improving their skills in English (four- and five-unit levels), mathematics (three-, four- and five-unit levels) and Hebrew language.

Produced by Hed Artzi Multimedia, the NIS 179 CD-ROM disk, called *Bagrut 100*, offers 20 to 50 full matriculation exams in each subject as well as the complete answers. By giving the user experience with the types of multiple-choice questions he will encounter, and checking the time it takes him to answer, the exercises are a dry-run of the real thing.

The program has a built-in dictionary and mathematical tools to help answer the questions. There are no memory-wasting gimmicks in the program, but some humor: if the user fails to answer most of the questions correctly (or exists the program prematurely), he will be presented with a color illustration of his "future": a prisoner behind bars.

As an additional feature, the CD-ROM also calculates the user's chances for entering the various universities based on his performance and psychometric scores, as well as information on admissions requirements at the various departments.

INFANT SOFTWARE

Available software for young children has made it possible for those still in diapers to enjoy working on a computer; now those still breast-feeding may not be too young to work on the machine.

Comfy, the Israeli company that pioneered toddler-friendly hardware and software, has come out with Tiki and Boo, a program for babies aged 12 to 30 months.

Parents can install the NIS 149 CD-ROM if they already have a Comfy keyboard, a special device with large colorful keys that attaches to the printer port of a PC and costs NIS 359.

A number of enjoyable programs have been developed by Comfy since it first came on the market about 18 months ago. The new program includes an overlay placed on the keyboard to supply new pictures and activities for the keys. There are three levels of playing, allowing babies just to watch or to get actively involved.

The "screenplay" was written by noted children's author Dattya Ben-Dor and uses five characters: Tiki, aged three; Boo, a bubble; Oops, a monkey; Yoki, a kitten; and Betty the puppy. Each has his own personality and reacts when the user pushes a key.

Ben-Dor says that the interactive keyboard allowed her to create children's material with a new dimension. "They learn and are entertained at the same time." The keys allow users to learn about the parts of the body that come in pairs, make a static picture come to life, play hide-and-seek and guess the identity of hidden objects by their sound.

All parents have to do now is find a high chair suitable for propping up their baby in front of the PC.

STICKY STAMPS

Will stamp-licking become obsolete? Within a year, 60 percent of US postage stamps will no longer be lickable; instead, users will peel them off like stickers from their shiny backing. Our own Postal Authority says it has "not yet begun to think about" making a transformation of its stamps, but it will be able to test the waters with a Hanukkah stamp, the first-ever stamp to be issued jointly by Israel and the US, which will be issued in sticker form.

At present, nearly 20 percent of US postage stamps come as

paste-ons. The first commemorative stamp with a peel-off backing was issued on Friday in Tennessee to mark that state's bicentennial.

According to philatelic experts, stamp collectors tend to oppose the sticker form because there is no easy way to mount individual self-adhesive stamps in stamp albums. They would have to laboriously cut out the stamp with its backing using scissors or buy a whole sheet. US postal officials said they may introduce a fine perforation to the backing to reduce this problem.

Cigal Galil, the Postal Authority spokeswoman, says the Hanukkah stamp, due out this winter, should be an interesting experiment. "We will see whether Israelis prefer self-adhesive stamps, but we'll also have to look into the pricing question. If it's much more expensive, it won't be practical."

If the Postal Authority eventually decides to shift completely to sticker stamps, at least it won't have to make sure, as it did years ago, that its glue is kosher.

OFFICE AT HOME

Electronic combinations are becoming the byword in telecommunications. A new telephone model offered by Panasonic has a memory that can store up to 25 pages of text, and is also a fax, answering machine and a photocopy that can blow up documents to twice their size. Called Superphone, the NIS 2,445 machine is only 26.6 x 23 x 9 centimeters and suited for home or office use.

The phone's reminder function informs the user, according to pre-programming, when an urgent or important fax is coming in or when the user has an important meeting.

It also serves as an alarm clock. For privacy, faxes and voice messages can be coded and stored in the memory and released only when the proper code is keyed in. If pressing the help button to print out the instructions is not enough, it comes with a video film showing exactly how to use it.

BE HEALTHY, WEALTHY and WISE

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Job for the girls

WASHINGTON'S determination to veto Boutros Boutros-Ghali's bid for a second term as United Nations secretary-general may have as much to do with Republican assaults on the UN in a US election year as anything else. But the fact remains that the Egyptian diplomat has been less than successful in a job that now requires an entirely new caliber of leader.

Boutros-Ghali's failure has been a failure of leadership, pure and simple. A bloated bureaucracy, agenda-driven and money-gobbling UN organizations, inept officials who hold top jobs not on merit but on the principle the British call "Buggins' turn" — all are as a firmly entrenched now as when Boutros-Ghali arrived. During the UN 50th anniversary celebrations last year, Boutros-Ghali complained bitterly to the media about the little credit the organization gets for its successes. He cited the pacification of Cambodia and Mozambique, 20 years of

peace in Cyprus, and the efforts that saved millions in Somalia, Rwanda and Bosnia.

The secretary-general seemed to be missing an important point. The UN's job is to succeed — why else should it exist? Yet by any objective standards, all those successes he mentioned were colossal failures. The UN had to scuttle out of Somalia and Bosnia, leaving one to anarchy and the other to NATO, to mention but two. The UN played no part whatsoever in the Middle East peace process because its credibility in the region is an abysmal.

The time has come to turn this "job for the boys" over to a new breed of leader entirely. By far the three most promising candidates are three highly successful women — Irish President Mary Robinson, Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata. Boutros-Ghali should withdraw gracefully and give the girls a chance they more than deserve.

Retreat of the mad cows

THE European Union's long overdue move to lift its blanket ban on British beef is to be welcomed, hopefully ending one of the most ridiculous episodes in the history of the EU's self-important bureaucracy. The Mad Cow saga left more sober observers wondering whether it was Europe's cows or commissioners that had taken leave of their senses.

The agreement, reached at the current EU summit in Florence, has ended three months of some of the most unseemly squabbling ever seen in the union. Based on dubious and contradictory scientific evidence — and the inevitable media attention to a "sexy" story — Brussels bureaucrats managed to bring the huge European beef industry to its knees, destroying public confidence, and running up a bill for European taxpayers which will be counted in billions of dollars.

Not only did the ban destroy the beef industry in England, where BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) first appeared, but it seriously hurt cattle farmers in totally uncontaminated countries like Scotland and Ireland.

At the end of it all, Britain agreed to meet strict sanitary conditions (which it has had in place from the start) and slaughter more than 100,000 at-risk cattle under monitoring by EU inspectors. While the EU will allow British beef products, from young calves to grass-fed cows, to return to the market, a return to full exporting will probably take months or years, until public confidence recovers. Britain, in turn, has ended its arbitrary boycott of EU business.

The Mad Cow issue had threatened to disrupt a summit which has far more weighty dangers to consider — such as the critical state of unemployment across the continent, the admission of new members, and yet another row with Britain over the move to a single European currency. It has been so help at all that billions of dollars that were urgently required to tackle the jobs crisis had been diverted to the Mad Cows. The end result was that EU Commission President Jacques Santer failed to find backing for his

planned united crusade by governments, workers and employers against unemployment. With no more money to spend, the officials passed the matter on to those ubiquitous Euro subcommittees.

The blow to trust within the union has been immense. Britain was never the EU's favorite member, and the present British government, aided by a rabid yellow tabloid press, has added xenophobia to its traditional suspicion of all things emanating from Brussels.

With the Arab summit convening in Cairo to draft Arab policies towards Israel's new government, a strong and united EU could have been expected to fill the role of buffer and powerful policy adviser to the Middle East protagonists. Instead, the EU summit issued one of those wishy-washy "declarations" which "encourages all parties to re-engage themselves in the peace process" and devoted almost half the statement to a classic piece of Israeli-bashing over the closure imposed on the Palestinian territories. The statement will impress neither Arab leaders with its spinelessness nor Israelis with its undercurrents.

The EU compounded suspicions that there is still more than a whiff of Third World and Non-aligned hypocrisy behind its foreign policy by proceeding to denounce US moves to punish foreign companies doing business with the pariah dictatorships and fundamentalist troublemakers in Cuba, Iran and Libya.

The summit also marks the close of Italy's period in the presidency and one can only sigh with relief. Italy's leadership of the union in the last six months has been about as effective as its leadership at home. The next summit is scheduled for Dublin in December and the no-nonsense Irish at least promise a more businesslike and back-to-reality agenda, with plans to revamp the present shambles and streamline the bureaucracy before the next dozen candidates for membership come knocking on the door. This is Europe, after all, and the least that could be expected of the union is intelligence, efficiency, and leadership.



DEG 96

Answer to the critics

URIEL LYNN

AS one of the coauthors of the law for direct election of the premier and in my previous capacity as chairman of the Knesset Constitution and Law Committee, which drafted the law, I was heavily involved in influencing its content and steering its difficult passage through the legislative process.

I can say with pride that no other piece of legislation was weighed more carefully from every possible angle.

However, critics of the law never bothered to study its history, rationale, content or structure in any depth. Many didn't even bother to read the only thorough relevant piece of research on the subject, written by Gideon Alon and published a few months ago. They were hasty in criticizing the law before the election, and they are even more hasty in criticizing it now. Many of them think that their taste and wishes take precedence over the true will of the people.

The main contentions of the critics centered on five main areas.

- The law will bring a dictator to the Prime Minister's Office.
- The coalition negotiations, involving exemption on the part of the center parties, will take place before rather than after elections.
- The prime minister will be too strong; the Knesset too weak.
- The government won't be able to function because it will face a confrontational parliament.
- The double vote will move voters away from the large parties to the small and middle-sized parties.

By now everyone realizes that not one of these five allegations, only the last, has materialized.

The prime minister's coalition partners know very well that they have only one alternative, and we will not have to relive the shameful two months of coalition wheeling and dealing that we experienced following the 1984 and 1988 elections.

The power and Knesset representation of the small parties has increased significantly. This was not one of the intentions of those who created the law. But it would be highly superficial to assume, as many politicians in the large parties do, that it all happened only as a direct result of the change in our system of voting.

The two large parties were so focused on convincing the voters to support their candidate for prime minister that they totally forgot to canvass for their party.

As a matter of fact, many activists told supporters of other parties to vote for whichever party they chose, as long as they cast their vote for their candidate for the premiership.

But it went much further than just not running the right cam-

political parties they really do not support, and which don't really represent them.

The outcome of the elections shouldn't be judged by the interest of one party or another, but rather by the broad national interest, and with a view to the future.

The main goals of the new basic law for direct election were achieved almost in full. The next government will enjoy more stability. The leverage of the small parties to extract concessions far beyond their proportionate share decreased. We will no longer have a situation whereby the Knesset was an enlarged government, and the government a small Knesset.

There will be a very delicate balance of power between the Knesset and the government. The Knesset will be able to bring down the prime minister, while the prime minister will have the power to dissolve the Knesset, with the approval of the president. But in each case, each side can do that only by ending its own tenure.

The elections were a true demonstration of democratic values and democratic decision-making. The general public was much more involved than in previous elections. It had much more power in really shaping and forming the legislative body and the government.

Quantitative participation was at a record high, close to 90 percent if we count voters abroad. One must remember the events following the elections of 1984, 1988 and the toppling of the unity government in March 1990 to realize how democratic the change really is.

The new law isn't perfect, just as there is no perfect democratic system. But we must judge it, according to these two yardsticks: Does it adhere to true democratic values, and does it lead to a workable and stable government?

I think the answer is yes in both cases, and also that this bold Israeli creation may serve as a model for other democracies like Italy and India, which sorely need an element of stability in their systems of government.

The writer is a former Likud MK and Knesset Law Committee chairman.

The law for direct election isn't perfect — but it's good enough to serve as a model for other democracies that need stabilizing

Both large parties took the voters too much for granted. They didn't think that, for the sake of broad appeal, they needed perhaps to include authentic candidates who truly represented the voters.

New immigrants comprise a distinct body of voters who had no good reason to vote for either of the large parties. The country's Jewish religious population constitutes around 20 percent of the total vote, and they also failed to see why they should vote for either of the large parties.

Hopefully the large parties will learn the lesson of these last elections, and work much harder to attract distinct and separate sections of the population, whom they have so far failed to represent.

This is good for democracy. If the large parties want to have more seats in the next Knesset they will have to take a more pluralistic approach.

THE ELECTION results are truly democratic in the sense that they reflect the exact division in the population. We have to respect these results, and cease to assume that voters will give their votes to

Too little, too late

DAVID FORMAN

ONCE again, as the religious parties make their coalition demands, North American Jewry becomes understandably jittery. There can be no change in the religious status quo, Diaspora Jews warn.

The leaders of the battle to maintain some semblance of religious pluralism in Israel are Reform and Conservative Jews, who represent close to two million Diaspora Jews. However, their cause may be a case of too little, too late.

Part of the problem is that Conservative and Reform Jewry in the Diaspora preach their message of religious equality from a safe distance. Their aliyah record is dismal, particularly when compared to the much smaller Orthodox movement.

Another problem is that these Jews seem to rush to the forefront only in order to fight for their right to recognition as an authentic stream within Judaism. Other issues on the religious/social agenda barely seem to exist.

This single-mindedness has, unfortunately, been coupled with an increasing apathy regarding Israel on the part of most North American Jews. As mixed marriage and assimilation become the trademark of North American Jewry, any Jewish identity maintained is defined along religious lines only.

However, identification with Israel is propelled by a Jewish self-definition that includes people, land, state, culture, language and religion. Exclude one of these elements from one's Jewish identity and a severance between the Diaspora and Israel is the outcome.

The real religious issues facing Israel today are not the ones that affect Reform and Conservative Jews only, but those that affect the very nature of an enlightened and equal society. The religious parties' demands go far beyond the technicalities of returning to the status quo of 1992.

The other day it was reported that the religious parties want to have a "Jewish majority" in the Knesset to pass laws that will guarantee the "Jewish character" of the state. They also want to limit the jurisdiction of the High Court of Justice, leaving matters pertaining to religious issues exclusively in the hands of the Orthodox-dominated religious courts.

Both these demands are clearly troubling.

But because the Reform and Conservative movements abroad

The trouble with Conservative and Reform Jewry is that it can't see the wood for the trees

have confined themselves primarily to their own narrow concerns, they have forfeited any credibility in speaking out on these issues — which are of far greater religious significance than whether a Reform rabbi can perform a marriage in Israel.

Yet the latest grumblings coming from the North American Reform and Conservative movements are once again limited to the rights of their rabbis to be recognized and their conversions validated. So one must look to the Reform and Conservative movements here for support in combating the introduction of new religious laws.

ONE MIGHT expect them to have a lot to say in this area. But again we run into a problem because, like their sister movements abroad, Reform and Conservative Jews in Israel have concentrated their efforts on their own needs.

And while these needs are essential to a pluralistic society, they aren't the only ones that need addressing.

The ascent of the religious parties in Israel has brought with it a theology in which the national ego is projected onto God, and divine blessings are seen to be bestowed upon one community above all others. The result is a form of nationalism, fueled by an almost messianic exclusiveness which, first and foremost, would relegate Christians, Muslims, Druse, Bedouin and Baha'is to a far more problematic role in this country than would the disenfranchisement, even delegitimation, of Reform and Conservative Jewry. (After all, Reform and Conservative Jews are still part of a Jewish majority.)

The battle must be enjoined for the universal acceptance of all citizens as equals in this country.

If Reform and Conservative Jewry, here and abroad, wish to make their presence felt, they must expand their agenda to protect the rights of all people in the state.

The writer is spokesperson of Rabbis for Human Rights.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ROAD DEATH TOLL

Sir, — The Post is to be congratulated for its editorial of June 12, "Spend to save lives," on how to reduce the road death toll swiftly, with low-cost and relatively simple measures. But two comments, one ethical, the other having to do with politics, are necessary.

First, ethics. Metnani's list of preventive measures aims to reduce the death toll in under 200 before the year 2000. This is 200 too many. As the physician who helped prepare this list, not only can I not tolerate even one death from road crashes, but I can put forth the hypothesis that the epidemic of road deaths can be eradicated. Since the pathogen kinetic energy is made by us, we can create the social and physical environment to reduce, disperse and dissipate it — totally, just as smallpox has been eradicated. The first step: canceling the raised speed limit. The other step: a nationwide network of speed cameras, building on the Netanyahu-Petah Tikva program so brilliantly run by Professor Ben-David, for detecting and deterring high speeds.

And now, politics. The title of the editorial "Spend to save lives" misses the most important practical point about speed-camera networks. The revenues from ticket fines reduced expenditure for other costs connected with road injury, including medical care, will help cover the cost of the program. We are talking about investing to save lives and putting enforcement costs on a self-sustainable basis.

Right now, the public is subsidizing the costs of road carnage with inflated insurance premiums paid to

an industry which runs on cost plus rather than profit and loss. More than a year ago, the Road Safety Authority — then under Otniel Schneller — was presented with a financial projection showing how to save lives and make money. Shockingly, it has yet to respond. Worse, as the State Comptroller reported, the Ministry of Transport squandered more than NIS 100 million on political appointments and Mr. Schneller's worthless TV campaigns, whose only result was to make Israel the only Western country with a 28 percent rise in the annual road death toll in the last five years.

At the same time, the Netanyahu-Petah Tikva speed-camera program run by Professor Gerald Ben-David, which reduced death and injury by some 30 percent over five months, is in danger of collapse because the ministry has defaulted on its contractual budgetary obligation to support the program.

ELIHU D. RICHTER, MD,
Head, Betts Injury Prevention Program,
Hebrew University — Hadassah Medical School
Jerusalem.

LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

Sir, — I was delighted, and I am sure so were many others among your readers, to find that The Jerusalem Post had decided to publish a literary supplement. In my opinion this answers a definite need.

ERIC GUTWILLIG
Haifa.

BARBAROUS MURDER

Sir, — I think most readers would have preferred to see on your front page of June 14 a photo showing Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara paying their condolence visit to the family of the two little Ungar orphans, sitting *shiva*, rather than the superfluous picture of grinning ex-Prime Minister Peres together with Chief of Staff Liptzin-Shahak.

Strangely, unlike the Hebrew-language newspapers, this time The Jerusalem Post almost completely played down this savage, heart-breaking crime — the cold-blooded terrorist murder of the young parents, Efrat and Yaron Ungar, by barbarian "peace partners."

Kiryat Ono.

'PROPER PROCEDURES'

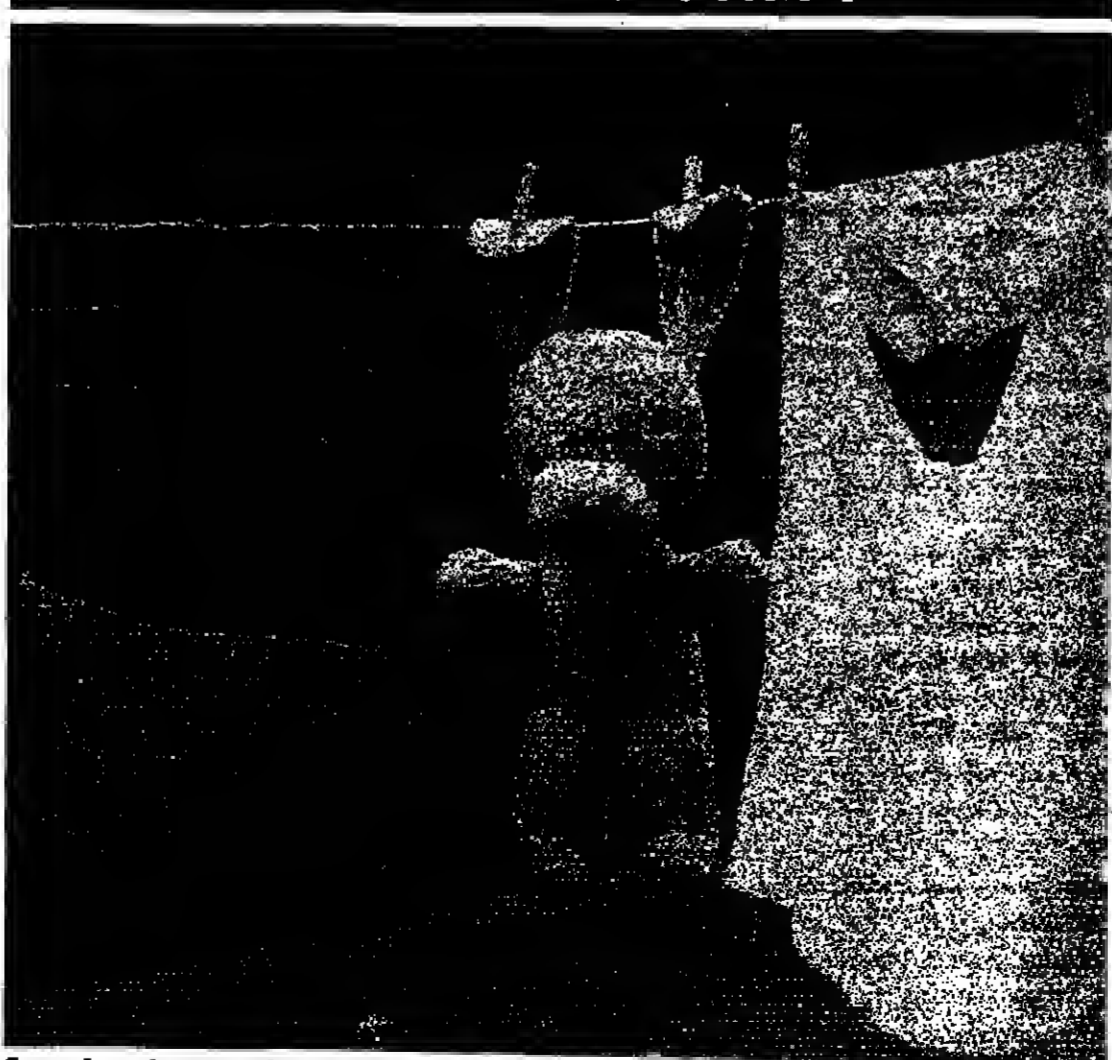
Sir, — In your issue of June 12, the army is quoted as saying that in spite of proper procedures, following the rules, etc., in Lebanon, the "results were not good."

This dry understatement highlights what, in my view, is the army's big problem. Flexibility and short, sharp, fast response were once its big advantage. Today, it is so full of "proper procedures" that it cannot deal with an irregular, hit-and-run enemy. It can only promise "strong action" which is more of the same and is not effective.

The army should return to the "use brains, not brawn" school of action and plan unconventional, more innovative measures and stop the routine procedures which are highly visible and open to attack.

EVE SHORR
Haifa.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT

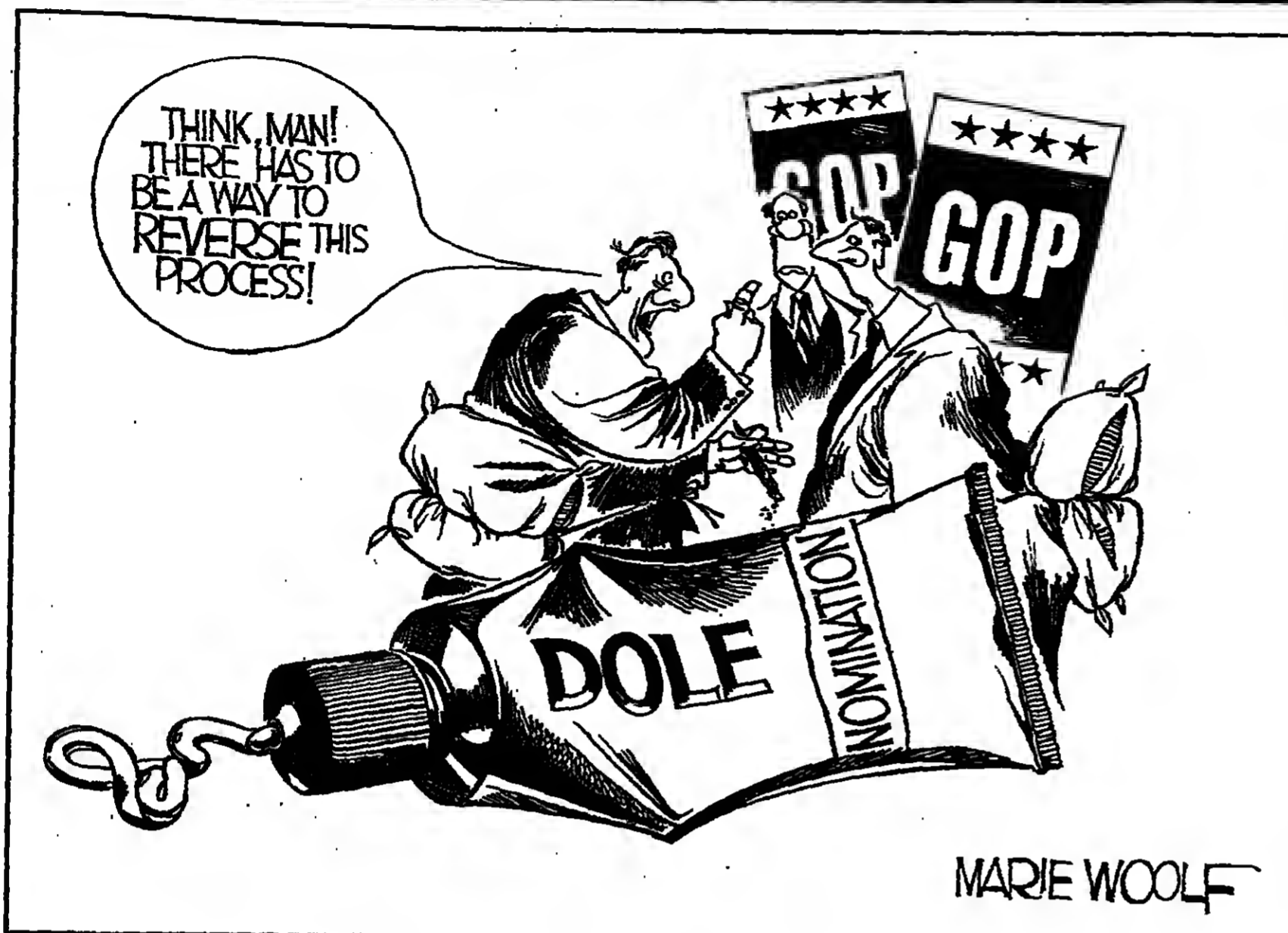


Somewhere there must be a concerned group of activists standing up for the rights of floppy-eared teddy bears. This one, in Vienna, has been cruelly hung out to dry.

(UPI)

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, June 23, 1996



Remembering the O.J. Simpson trial

By ALAN DERSHOWITZ

The second anniversary of the brutal murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman have brought considerable media reflection about the lessons of the O.J. Simpson trial. Those who believe the verdict was unjust are calling for reform of the jury system, while those who deem the verdict just continue to rail against the media bias which convicted Simpson even before the evidence was in.

Lost in the polemical debate is the one reform on which all concerned citizens should agree: improving the quality of police investigatory work. Most observers agree that the state of California lost its case as a result of investigatory ineptitude combined with police testimony that was simply not believable. The jurors — black and white alike — simply lost faith in the police who gathered the evidence and testified about it. Anise Aschenbach, a white juror who believed that Simpson was "probably" guilty, also believed that the police may have tampered with some of the evidence and may have lied. When asked if she were sure that evidence had been planted, she gave the following answer: "If we made a mistake, I would rather it be a mistake on the side of a person's innocence than the other way." This is the correct approach for a juror to take under the American system of justice, which presumes the defendant's innocence and places a heavy burden of proof on the prosecution.

In fact, the case for police perjury and evidence planting in the Simpson case is quite compelling. The two major items of evidence presented against Simpson were the socks allegedly found on the rug in his bedroom, and the glove allegedly found behind his house. The socks contained the blood of O.J. Simpson and Nicole Brown; the glove contained blood of Simpson, Brown and Ronald Goldman.

EVIDENCE

The socks were suspicious from the very beginning, since they did not show up on the police video of the bedroom and did not appear to have any blood on them when first inventoried by the police. Only after Detective Philip Vannatter carried the O.J. Simpson blood sample back to Simpson's home did blood show up on the socks, and that blood contained traces of EDTA, an anti-coagulant found in the tube used to carry Simpson's blood sample, but not in the human body. Jurors believed that blood from the Simpson tube may have been sprinkled on the socks by a policeman. Indeed, an expert testified that the blood splatter pattern on the socks was more consistent with having been sprinkled while the socks were lying flat than splattered while the socks were being worn. But the question still remained: How could Nicole Brown's blood have ended up on the socks? Now we have a possible answer. On June 7, 1996, The Los Angeles Times reported that Detective Vannatter had "deviated from standard procedure" by going to the coroner's office and picking up blood samples from Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman. In other words, Vannatter had in his personal possession the blood of Simpson, Brown and Goldman.

This may also explain how the blood of all three were "found" on the glove. The police testified that the glove was moist with blood when it was "found" behind Simpson's house. This raised eyebrows among some jurors, since there was expert testimony that if the glove had been dropped by Simpson before 11 p.m. on that dry night, it would not have been moist when it was found the next morning. Although the police saw blood on the glove when it was found, no one knew whose blood it was until it was subsequently tested. The fact that Vannatter had in his personal possession the blood of each of the people eventually found on the glove raises new suspicions which call for an outside investigation of the blood evidence.

In a debate with me on "Larry King Live," former prosecutor Vince Bugliosi made the argument that Vannatter would never have risked "the gas chamber" by testifying falsely in a possible capital case. But Bugliosi is wrong. First, by the time Vannatter testified at the trial, it was no longer a capital case. Second, the Supreme Court has ruled that the Constitution does not permit execution except for murder, and third, Vannatter testified in "reckless disregard for the truth," as even Judge Lance Ito found. Yet, he has not even been investigated, thus demonstrating that he was never realistically at risk of any penalty for his questionable actions.

Dr. Henry Lee, one of the world's leading forensic experts and himself a police official, concluded that something was "wrong" with the blood evidence. The jurors agreed. Even Christopher Darden now acknowledges that he experienced some doubts about this evidence, as did several other prosecutors.

As we pass the second anniversary of these brutal murders, all Americans — regardless of their views on Simpson's guilt or innocence — should join together and demand a full and objective investigation of the police conduct in this case, especially now that we know that Detective Vannatter had personal possession of all the crucial blood samples, in violation of standard police procedure.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest book is "Reasonable Doubts" (Simon & Schuster).

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Hall Monitor

Congressional reform on Capitol Hill

By STEPHEN GLASS

When it comes to political reform, Rep. Pete Hoekstra is a zealot. A successful entrepreneur, he swears he'll return to the furniture business after a self-imposed 12-year term limit. In the first of his shoestring campaigns, his house doubled as campaign headquarters, and he biked between events. He has never accepted PAC money.

And he proselytizes. Last year, the Michigan Republican forced the House to allow C-SPAN's cameras to pan the chambers. For 17 years, the network had not been allowed to move its cameras from a tight focus on whoever was speaking, allowing members to preach to an empty chamber without looking silly. The change didn't exactly endear Hoekstra to his colleagues. House Speaker Newt Gingrich said members were worried that they might get caught on camera "rugging their ears" or "picking their noses." Thirty Republicans wrote Gingrich a letter demanding a return to the old rules. But Newt refused.

Now Hoekstra is at it again, and House Republicans are newly enraged. In recent weeks, Hoekstra's Congressional Reform Task Force has been putting the finishing touches on a proposal that some House leaders fear would cripple incumbent advantage, just as the GOP is trying to capitalize on it to retain control of the House. While the plan is still secret, staff members who have seen drafts say it calls for the elimination of political action committees, fines for missed votes and pension cuts so drastic they would constitute de facto term limits.

From the start, the task force's ideas have been unwelcome. In January, when Hoekstra surveyed House Republicans on the issue of congressional reform, 33 percent said it should be the GOP's lowest priority. One unidentified congressman wrote on the questionnaire, "Maybe you'll be happy if we strip ourselves naked, genuflect on the House floor, and sell our children into slavery."

But, while Hoekstra has met a chilly reception from many lawmakers, he's pushed ahead with the backing of Gingrich, who reportedly thinks congressional reform will help the GOP in November and likes it because many House rules can be altered without

Senate or presidential approval. Gingrich has planned a "Reform Week" in July for votes on task force recommendations.

Two weeks ago, Gingrich and Majority Leader Dick Armey said they would sponsor the ban on donations from PACs. Their pledge unleashed an internecine revolt. At a GOP Policy Committee meeting earlier this month, dozens of members — including Majority Whip Tom DeLay, nicknamed "The Hammer" for his aggressive PAC fund-raising tactics — attacked the proposal. Voting for a PAC ban in an election year, just when lawmakers are going hat in hand to lobbyists, they argued, would be suicidal. Besides, PAC money now benefits the GOP disproportionately. In 1995 — an off-election year — PACs gave Republicans \$42 million and Democrats \$25.6 million. "I don't think you solve the issue by calling yourself Captain Ahab and dubbing PACs your Moby Dick," Kansas Republican Pat Roberts told The Hill after the meeting.

While most of the squabbling so far has been over the PAC ban, some of the task force's proposals are likely to cause intra-party firestorms in coming weeks. A recent draft calls for a Congressional Attendance Reform Act, which would require members to return their pay for each day they miss a vote. To verify emergency medical or family exemptions, representatives would have to provide notes from family members or doctors. "This is like being in elementary school," says one Republican's chief of staff. "Hoekstra is like a super-hall-monitor."

Hoekstra, who maintains one of the best attendance records in Congress, has long been obsessed with absenteeism. In 1994, he filed a complaint with the Ethics Committee against Texas Democrat Craig Washington, who had logged an absentee rate of 80 percent, and two other offenders. Washington was voted out of office in 1994; the other two retired.

It's precisely that precedent that worries Hoekstra's fellow Republicans. Highlighting absences can only hurt incumbents come November. "We should have pushed this when we were in the minority," the chief of staff added. "Incumbents are the only ones with bad attendance records. Challengers have perfect attendance."

But here, too, political cover comes from Gingrich, who hopes to use the attendance act to usher in a certain pet reform of his own — a bill

that fines congressmen who file baseless ethics complaints. This spin-off of "loser pays" tort reform would allow a bipartisan committee to fine individual members who file "frivolous" complaints and charge their offices for the costs. Gingrich, who was charged with 65 tax violations (64 were rejected by the Ethics Committee), has repeatedly said the ethics process is being abused for partisan purposes. If lawmakers squawk at a new rule that fines them, the attendance reform bill will deflect attention away from the controversial ethics reform.

Finally, the task force may suggest denying members pension increases after their 12th year, hoping that this will serve as a kind of term limit — encouraging them to leave government sooner. Minnesota Republican Gil Gutknecht has already sponsored such a bill. Senior members, not surprisingly, are grumbling. And GOP bigwigs fear any pension debate will open up a matter they'd rather keep shut: Bob Dole's generous retirement package.

The Kansas senator will receive \$126,000 a year for his 35 years of service. One Gutknecht staffer says GOP party officials are pressuring House leadership to downplay his boss's bill during Reform Week, or to ignore it altogether.

"Cuts in pensions are widely popular with the American public and — wonder, — hated in Congress. They generally die an untimely death," says Garry Ruskin at Ralph Nader's Congressional Accountability Project. Indeed, despite promises made every election season, Congress has not considered any pension changes since 1983.

While some reforms will never go over big with lawmakers, Hoekstra might still wonder why he's not so popular in the lunchroom these days. During the 1994 campaign, House GOP leaders heralded a new era of citizen-legislators, accountable as never before to the folks back home. Back then, they saluted Hoekstra for running against the Beltway elite. But, while Hoekstra's message of austere congressional reform hasn't changed, the targets of his reform efforts have. And that, of course, makes all the difference.

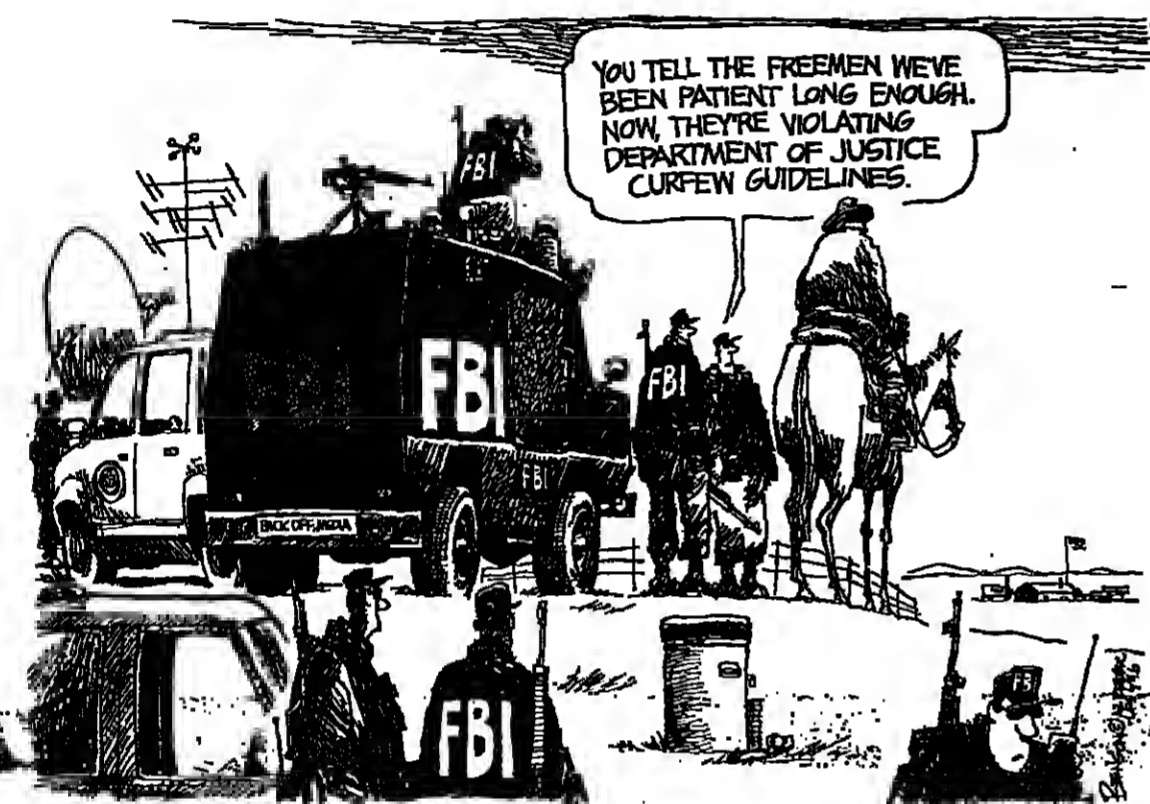
Stephen Glass is an assistant editor of The New Republic.

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



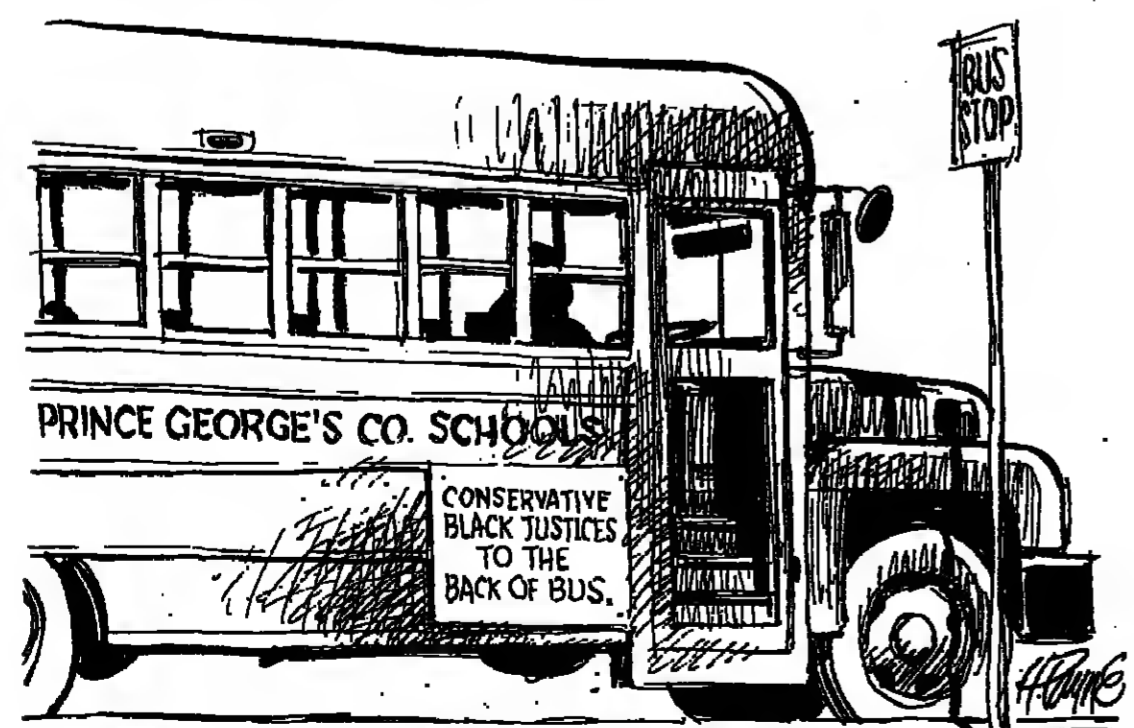
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Campaign Fever

Russians make choice for new leader

BY RICHARD LOURIE

"Y's"

If the Russians don't revert to their time-honored folkways — slaughtering each other in dizzying numbers — they will hold their second democratic presidential election on June 16.

Among the contenders there's an Ex, two "Y's" and two "Z's." Ex-president Mikhail Gorbachev. The two good "Y's" — Grigory Yavlinsky the reformer and Yeltsin the president. Plus the two bad "Z's," Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, a Buchanan with no manners whatsoever, and Geonadi Zyuganov, the head of a promising new party: the communists.

"X's"

You can x "Ex" out. Gorbachev doesn't have a chance. Abroad, he is considered a distinguished statesman. In Russia he is considered the Stupidest Man Who Ever Lived. "The Only Leader in 1,000 Years to Turn Russia from a

Yeltsin will probably be re-elected for the simple reason that he is both hateable and liberal enough to allow people to hate him openly.

Mighty Power into a Beggar State" — is not really the best of campaign slogans. Not long ago one of Gorbachev's former security doubles was mistaken for his old boss on the streets of Moscow and roughed up pretty good until things got straightened out.

"Z's"

Zhirinovskiy, leader of the fascists who call themselves the Liberal Democrats, is a little Hitler still in the funny, Charlie-Chaplin-Great-Dictator stage. Though popular, Zhirinovskiy is also known to be half Jewish. A half Jew could over rule Russia, birthplace of the pogrom. Though these are more progressive times, even a

one-eighth Jew probably couldn't win the Kremlin. For this election at least, a vigorous anti-Semitism inoculates Russia against fascism.

COMMUNISTS

But what about Zyuganov and the communists — will they bring back international tension and bad suits? Zyuganov, who has some of Newt Gingrich's ebullient Kewpie-doll charisma, may prove to be an anachronism with a future. A lot of Russians are nostalgic for the good old

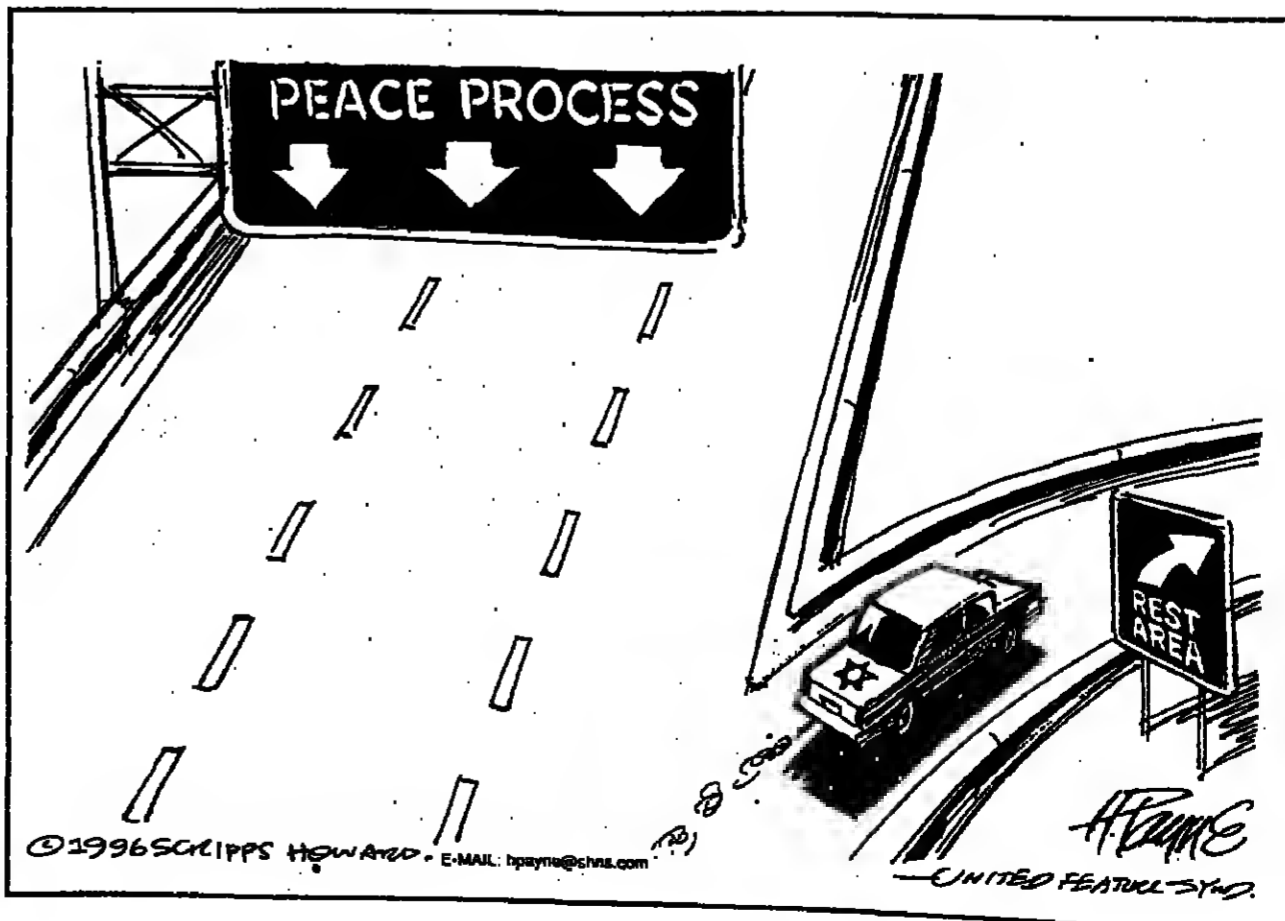
A lot of Russians are nostalgic for the good old days when everybody was poor but the country was strong and those who were stealing you blind at least had the good taste to do it discreetly.

days when everybody was poor but the country was strong and those who were stealing you blind at least had the good taste to do it discreetly. For many voters, being an evil empire is better than being no empire at all.

What kind of leader could ever satisfy such contradictory needs and desires? It would take something that might be impossible even for Russia — a Tsar Stalin the Nice.

Richard Lourie is working on a novel titled "The Autobiography of Joseph Stalin."

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هنا من الالهي



PEANUTS

by Schulz

4-23

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A Tree Speaks
By JEFF MEYERS

LET'S STOP IN HERE FOR A POP...

WOH...

WHO IS THAT? SHE'S A LOCAL PSYCHIC.

THEY SAY SHE READS MINDS...

PARDON ME, IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?

APPARENTLY SHE'S ALSO A SPEED READER...

I'M JEFF MEYERS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

I'M JEFF MEYERS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

I'M JEFF MEYERS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

6/23

calvin and hobbes

GUESS WHAT'S SHORT AND UGLY AND NET ALL OVER!
...GIVE UP?

THE ANSWER HAD BETTER NOT BE WHAT I THINK IT IS...

SCURRY SCURRY SCURRY
SCURRY SCURRY SCURRY
SCURRY SCURRY SCURRY
SCURRY SCURRY SCURRY

YOW!

SCURRY SCURRY SCURRY
SCURRY SCURRY SCURRY
SCURRY SCURRY SCURRY
SCURRY SCURRY SCURRY

BANK BANG BANG

CALVIN!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TEAR AROUND, DO IT OUTSIDE!

OKAY, OKAY...

6-23

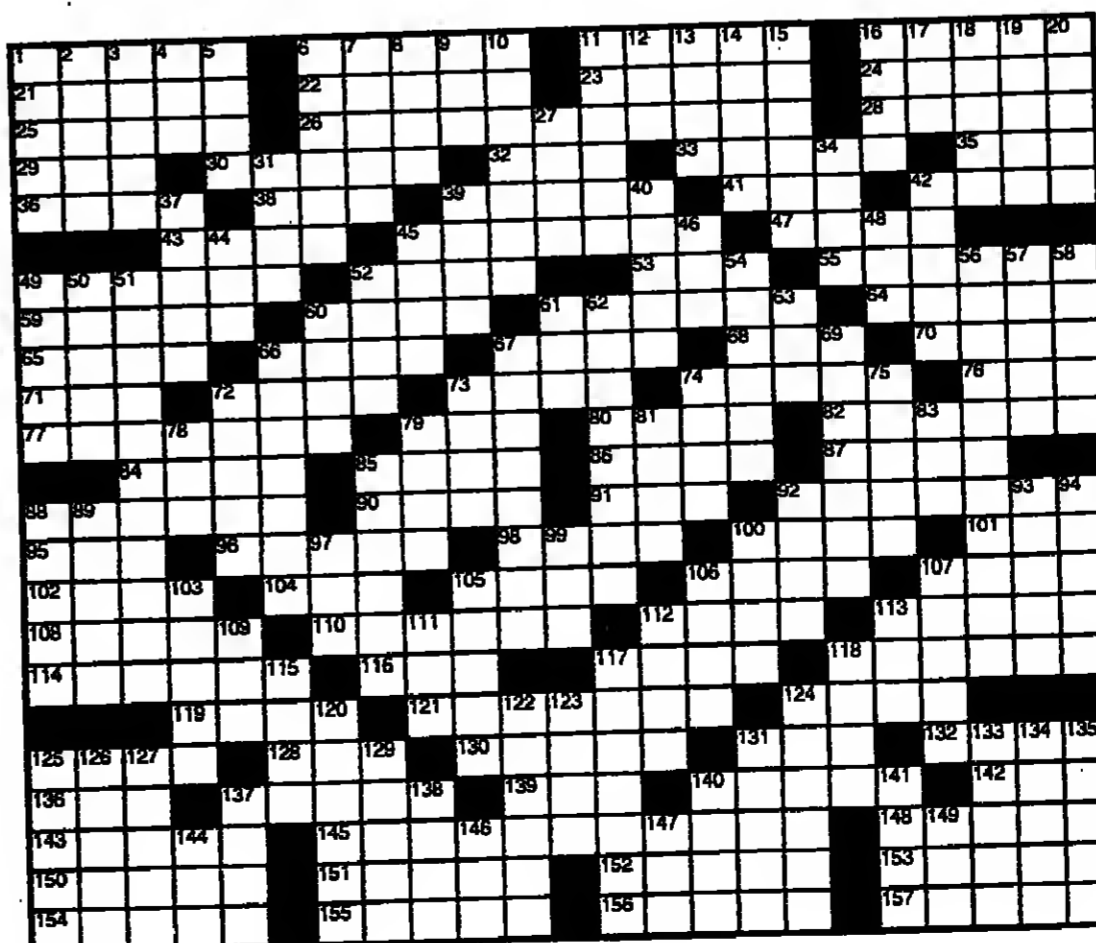
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The comic strip consists of two rows of panels:

- Top Row:**
 - A large black rectangular box containing white scribbles.
 - A character stands on a pedestal labeled "TRUTH". A speech bubble says: "HEY DAD, WHERE DO BABY ANTS COME FROM?"
 - The same character stands on the "TRUTH" pedestal. A speech bubble says: "I, ...UH... BETTER COME DOWN THERE FOR THIS ONE."
 - The character stands on a pedestal labeled "TENTH". A speech bubble says: "FOR EVERY ACTION..."
 - The character is shown being launched by a catapult-like device. A speech bubble says: "BWANG".
- Bottom Row:**
 - A ball is launched from a slanted surface.
 - A ball is launched from a curved surface.
 - A ball is launched from a tall, narrow structure.
 - A hand holds a ball. The word "FOOM" is written below it.
 - A character is launched into the air by a spring. The word "SPRING" is written next to the launch point.
 - A character stands on a pedestal labeled "TENTH". A speech bubble says: "THERE IS AN OPPOSITE AND EQUAL REACTION."



- ACROSS**
- 1 Range
8 Lost color
11 Mr. Shriver
16 Collect
21 Scarlett's surname
22 Overhead
25 Warning device
34 Jujuju cap
35 Office tool
39 David Ruffalo's team
Hunt season
48 Wedding
50 Mine yield
53 Slight arm
62 Be stick
63 Feline
73 Visualize
86 What a rolling stone
Islands
88 Hives resistant
93 Thing of value
41 "Cerberus"
42 Actor Bessie —
43 Flammé
45 Once exceeding the
limit
47 Sandwich shop
49 Unfilled
52 Unwanted plant
53 Fathead
55 Weather
59 Actress Durnea
60 Hat
61 City in a Neil Simon
play
66 Barrel part
68 Egg
69 Majority
67 Large number
68 Sail
70 In the sack
71 High card
72 A basketball team
73 Biscuit roll
74 Employee's reward
75 Cease
77 Snake catcher
78 Type of dance or
tower
80 At a distance
82 Name in a John
Lugabio movie
- DOWN**
- 1 Biblical city
2 Spanish
alphanumeric
3 Joyce Carol —
4 Belated prof.
5 Noblemen
6 Coddle
7 Humiliate
8 One deposit
9 Actress — Marie
Sain
10 Loved in value
11 Harshed roughly
12 Model Carol —
13 Comedian
Maffia —
14 Gnostic literary
type
15 Exterminated
16 French cleric
17 French sea
18 Stand up
19 Passenger seat
20 Dutch painter
Jean —
21 French river
31 Rose's love
34 Consumer
37 Alan Ledd role
39 Summit
40 Actor Savatras
42 Pronouncements
44 Had lunch
45 Disappears
46 Jo Jansiro
48 Flout —
49 —, "Mama"
50 Author Jorg
51 Hoag
54 Obtain by force or
intimidation
56 Clothing merchant
57 Occasion
58 Singer — I think she's
got it
61 Sheep sound
62obscure
63 Writer Fleming
66 "20 Questions"
category
- 60 Culverton Baker
72 — migration
73 Crescent-shaped
figure
74 Cotton bundle
75 Mine tunnel
76 Profit for good
77 Cassa room
78 Actor Purifer
83 Hostelry guest
85 Shee's lost her sheep
88 Kingston
89 The roommates
92 Flaming boat
93 One of the
"Cerberus"
94 Maria's brother
97 Bed part
98 The action served it
in mode
100 Select from a group
103 Discharge
104 Muslim religion
106 Wessner native
107 Maria
108 Exclaim in
amazement
111 "Cherish" bartender
112 Dominic
113 American architect
115 Actress Morano
117 Story with a moral
118 Two-person combat
120 Accident
122 Omen — Dam
123 Memory method
125 Piece
128 Buht's V.P.
129 Went on top
127 Winkles
129 Dead man
131 Leithing
133 Preclude
134 Horton
135 Peter
Colaboro
137 Wierped
138 Skin problem
140 Jason's ship
141 French composer
144 Peak
146 Set of tools
147 Striped fish
148 Panhandle





Coalition finds loophole in election guidelines

By JOHN JUDIS

At the June 1 Virginia Republican convention, somebody handed Ralph Reed, the executive director of the Christian Coalition, a sticker for James Miller. Miller, a socially conservative economist, was challenging the moderate Sen. John Warner for the Republican nomination. According to The Richmond Times Dispatch, Reed slapped the sticker on his lapel and wore it for a television interview.

The next weekend, on the eve of the election, the Coalition distributed 750,000 voter guides, primarily through local churches. While the Coalition had given Warner a "100 percent" rating in the "1996 Election Year Edition" of its "Congressional Scorecard," it tilted the voting guide in Miller's direction. It chose to highlight 10 issues on which Miller agreed with its position each time, while Warner had backed it on only two. The coalition omitted, for instance, Warner's opposition to lifting the ban on gays in the military and his support for banning immigrants infected with the HIV/AIDS virus — two issues that earlier scorecards had featured.

So the Christian Coalition actively supported Miller over Warner, right? Not according to Reed, who insisted at the convention that, "We are not issuing any kind of endorsement, not telling people who to vote for or how to vote." How can he get away with this? Simple: by exploiting a loophole in the tax and election guidelines. This loophole has been created by several recent, eccentric decisions from the U.S. District Court of Maine. According to these decisions, if an organization does not literally state "vote for x," it can escape the laws governing campaign contributions. And that's exactly what the Christian Coalition wants to do.

Since the 1971 passage of the Federal Election Campaign Act (and its amendment in 1974), the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and the IRS have drawn a distinction between "social welfare organizations" such as Common Cause or the Consumer Federation of America, which lobby but do not endorse candidates, and "political committees," which do. Social welfare organizations aren't required to disclose or limit their contributions — any individual or business can contribute as much as they want — but can't be "organized and operated primarily for the purpose of directly or indirectly... influencing or attempting to influence the selection, nomination, election,

or appointment" of candidates. That would make them a political committee. And political committees are subject to certain structures: they can't accept money directly from businesses or take more than \$5,000 a year from individuals, and they must disclose their contributors to the FEC.

Congress had good reason to make this distinction. By protecting purely issue-based organizations from surveillance, Congress safeguarded the rights of a company lobbying against a bill that could drive it out of business or a civil rights group working to end racial discrimination. By regulating election practices, on the other hand, Congress sought to discourage corruption in elections and to prevent the wealthy and powerful from determining the outcome of campaigns simply by outspending their opponents. When businesses could set up

By using churches as vehicles in its electoral activity, the Christian Coalition is indirectly using taxpayers to subsidize its political activity.

secret slush funds for candidates, they were limiting the political power, and by extension the free speech, of ordinary citizens. During the last two decades, however, groups on both the left and the right — from labor unions to term limits organizations — have sought to evade this important distinction.

The Christian Coalition has been a particularly gross offender. Unlike many single-issue lobbies, the Christian Coalition is deeply partisan. While it has cast a friendly eye toward a few House Democrats, it has taken an active role within the Republican Party. In several states, including Iowa and Texas, it dominates the party's political organization. In Virginia, for instance, the Coalition has intervened in intraparty disputes that don't bear directly on issues, but on party leadership. In 1994, Coalition leaders backed Oliver North over Miller for the GOP Senate nomination even though the two candidates' positions on social issues were indistinguishable. This year, the Coalition appeared to support Miller mainly because Warner had backed an independent Republican candidate against North in the general election. (Said Reed in his typical Delphic style, "Obviously, a lot of religious conserva-

tives are going to end up voting for Jim Miller because of their concern for John Warner's lack of support for Oliver North.")

As the Christian Coalition sometimes acknowledges, it operates within the Republican Party in much the same way the AFL-CIO operates within the Democratic Party. But there is one crucial difference. The AFL-CIO openly endorses candidates, and its political action committees operate within the federal election laws. The Christian Coalition does not. Reed's group insists it is not intervening in campaigns when it clearly is. This has helped produce a backlash — evidenced last week when Republican primary voters chose Warner over Miller in crushing numbers. The Coalition's partisanship lends weight to the perception that its real agenda is not the moral renovation of America, but its own political empowerment. In their recent book, *Dirty Little Secrets*, University of Virginia political scientist Larry Sabato and Wall Street Journal reporter Glenn Simpson are right on target when they describe the Coalition as a "powerful, secretly partisan, unregulated fund-raising machine."

Moreover, the Coalition's electoral activities sow distrust of church participation in politics. Churches are neither social welfare nor political organizations. As charitable institutions, they enjoy governmental subsidies — contributions to churches are tax-deductible — and are not supposed to participate in politics at all. By using churches as vehicles in its electoral activity, the Christian Coalition is indirectly using taxpayers to subsidize its political activity.

The Coalition could change how it participates in politics without abandoning its tax status and becoming a political committee. It could follow the example of the AFL-CIO or Americans for Democratic Action and set up a separate political action committee that endorses, funds and works for candidates. While that's not a perfect solution — organizations can still ferry money and personnel between their social welfare and political action sides — it would at least be a step toward institutional honesty. But the Coalition would then have to identify its donors, including businesses. And it would have to stop using churches as political entrepôts and ministers as precinct captains. Would Reed and Coalition Chairman Pat Robertson be willing to do so? Not likely.

John Judis is a senior editor of *The New Republic*.

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Will road to peace lead back to war?

Even before Benjamin Netanyahu has taken office as Israel's prime minister, some pundits have suggested that the United States re-evaluate its long-standing friendship with Israel.

For our part, we congratulate the people of the State of Israel on a successful, peaceful and democratic election.

It is important for the United States to cooperate with whatever government is chosen through a democratic decision by the people of Israel. Because it remains the only viable democracy in the region and a staunch American ally, Israel deserves the support of all Americans.

Although much of the rhetoric during Israel's election campaign focused on the peace process, Netanyahu has pledged that this process will continue.

The commitment of America's Jewish community to stand in solidarity with the people of Israel at this historic juncture should not be—and is not—affected by election results.

William E. Ruiner, president,
Jonathan Levine, Midwest regional director,
American Jewish Committee

GLOOMY FUTURE

The loss of Shimon Peres as prime minister of Israel is a devastating blow to the Middle East peace process.

Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing views of expanding Jewish settlements on occupied Palestinian land and denying Palestinians their right to statehood show no signs of continuing the path to peace.

For all of us who have a vital interest in the Middle East, a dark and gloomy future is imminent with Netanyahu at the helm, and a long, bitter conflict eventually will ignite the whole region. It's a shame; we were all so close to peace in the Middle East.

Shahad Mohammed,
Chicago, Illinois

POSTER BOY

Benjamin Netanyahu had barely announced his victory as prime minister of Israel before the news media conferred upon him the title of "hard-liner."

What does that mean? He has repeatedly stated his intention to honor agreements previously signed between Israel and her Arab neighbors, as well as agreeing to proceed along the path of peace—albeit without jeopardizing Israel's physical security.

The Palestine Liberation Organization's Yasser Arafat, with a history of hijackings, taking of hostages and murder, speaks of possible renewed "intifada"-style violence if his demands are not met.

Ironically, Arafat seems to enjoy among journalists a newfound status as "poster child" for Middle Eastern peace.

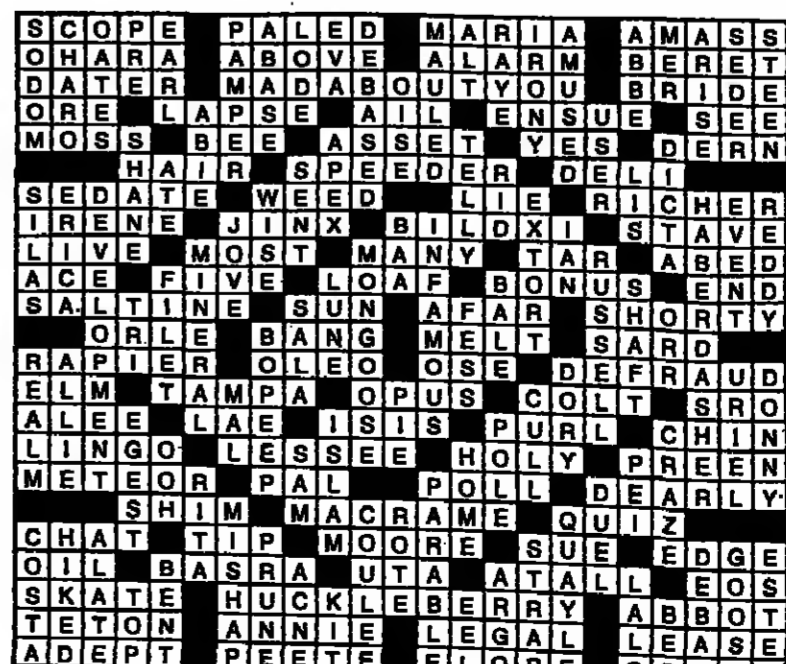
Who is the real hard-liner?

David Brochin
Chicago, Illinois

As published in the Letters to the Editor column of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, June 14, 1996. Reprinted with permission.

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

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The generation gap in the Middle Ages

THERE AND THEN
SRAYA SHAPIRO

ACCORDING to Maimonides, old men should not be appointed as judges in *Sanhedrin* "because they are cruel." Eunuchs and childless men should also be disqualified "because they have no compassion."

Prof. Shulamit Shahar, of Tel Aviv University, refers to Maimonides in her recently published study on getting old in the Middle Ages: *Hahoref Ha'otah Otanu* ("The Winter That Clothes Us," published by Dvir, 320 pp.), though the picture she draws is based almost entirely on examples taken from Christian sources.

Medieval man's average life span in Western Europe was about 40 years. When the plague raged,

life expectancy would drop to 28, at most.

Dante considered 45 to be old. Philippe de Navarre urged those who had passed 80 "to ask for death." Erasmus was preparing to die at 40, and Michelangelo felt he had reached life's limit at 42. Petrarch reminded himself at 40 that he was no longer young, and should refrain from chasing women in order to avoid ridicule.

Most medieval kings ruled when they were 20 to 30 years old. Many acceded to the throne in infancy because their parents died early. But there were exceptions. Doge Enrico Dandolo assumed his post in Venice when he was 85, and several years later

led the Crusade that captured Constantinople. Eleanor of Aquitaine, widowed at 67, saw her son Richard crowned king of England, and even negotiated a spouse for him.

THE NOTION of mandatory retirement emerged only toward the end of the 19th century. Medieval man worked until his senses gave out. And when he succumbed to physical disability he existed on charity.

The Church was supposed to earmark a third of the contributions it received for the care of the needy. The Church urged its

followers to give alms to save their souls from eternal fire. Suffering ennobled. It brought man nearer to God.

Given the miseries of old age it was no wonder that poets described paradise as a place where everybody was young. Another poet's fallacy was that rebels were young men opposing the tyranny of the old. In fact, says Prof. Shahar, where the age of the rebels could be ascertained, they were generally adults of about 40.

Women fared particularly badly in the Middle Ages. They were simply not tolerated by society,

especially if they were ugly – and poor. The physical transmutation of the female body was a mystery which spelled danger. Particularly ugly women were accused of preparing mysterious potions to arouse love – or prompt death. Here again Maimonides showed a more human attitude. Asked at what age a woman should be considered old, he replied: When she is no longer angry at being addressed as "old."

The elderly were often warned of the dangers they faced from their relatives. One recurring warning was not to transfer one's possessions to children during one's lifetime. In the original story of medieval King Lear, his

elder daughters treat him badly, though he does enjoy an honorable existence with the youngest daughter Cordelia for a number of years.

Medieval society was full of tensions, and the tension between the old and the young was much more acute than that so often observed in Western society today. The old were relegated to the fringes of society brutally and without compassion. And the young were prone to resent being kept out of economic and political positions.

Indeed, with the exceptions of mandatory retirement and pensions, little has changed over the centuries in attitudes caused by generation gap, observes Shahar.

Immunize puppies and kittens

HEADS 'N TAILS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

THE five-year-old dog that lived with a family I know died last week of parvo virus. This disease can be prevented by vaccination. But since they only got the bitch when she was a couple of years old the family never had her vaccinated against what they considered as "puppy diseases." They were sure that an older dog would be immune.

Unfortunately this is simply not the case. While it is true that puppies are more susceptible to distemper, canine hepatitis and the parvo virus, they do not become immune, and the fact that a dog has lived several years without contracting any of these three viruses does not give any guarantee that it never will. The same is true of leptospirosis and also applies to cats where feline panleukopenia (cat distemper) is concerned.

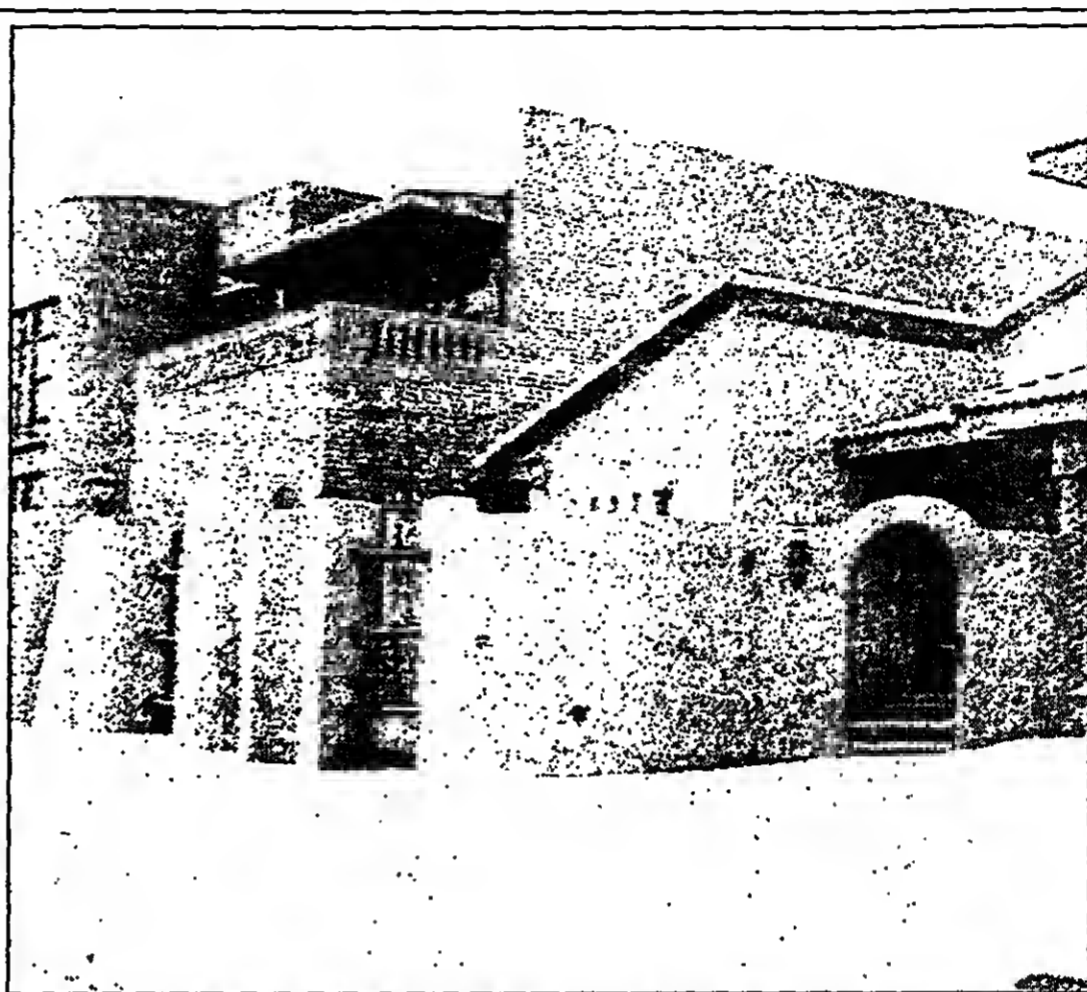
Even adult, immunized dogs need a booster injection against leptospirosis every couple of years. This is especially true of dogs that may come into close contact with rodents such as hedgehogs, and most other wildlife. A parvo virus booster is also highly recommended. Cats, however, once immunized, seem to be well protected against feline panleukopenia and feline enteritis.

It is amazing how few local pet owners immunize their puppies and kittens against these fatal diseases. Very few puppies or kittens survive these viral infections. Adult dogs do sometimes survive the parvo virus but only with exceptional nursing care. This largely consists of repeated injections of intravenous liquids since in most cases it is the severe dehydration that kills them.

Puppies and kittens should get their immunizations on a schedule set up with the vet, usually starting at seven or eight weeks of age. Many responsible breeders immunize the pups and charge the person who gets the pup. Some people object to this but in truth if a potential pet owner is not willing to pay for the immunizations then it is highly doubtful if they will later pay for veterinary care if it is needed.

One should also remember that, during the two- to three-week period after the first immunization, the puppy or kitten is not immunized but may in fact be more susceptible to the disease than before since the entire immune system is occupied with dealing with the production of antibodies. No puppy or kitten should ever be allowed contact with other dogs or cats or with their feces or urine. The habit of carrying a small puppy around to show to people is very ill-advised.

Once the dog or cat is fully immunized, it is OK to start walking it on the public streets and allowing it to meet other animals and their human companions. Until then the house and enclosed garden area is the best place for it.



At left, the poverty and social bleakness of Soweto. At right, the projection of the future, a blacks-only dormitory with homes comparable to those of the affluent white suburbs of Johannesburg. (AFP)

20 years after its uprising, Soweto begins to prosper

IT is a sunny Saturday morning in South Africa's best-known black community, and things are hopping at the Dobsonville Mall.

Long lines wait at the bank machines. Shoppers clog supermarket checkout counters and families buy popcorn at the triplex cinema.

Over in Pinville, another part of Soweto, a road race winds by tennis courts behind a new library. Inside, parents and students fill nearly every cubicle and chair as toddlers play on the carpet.

"We're busy every day," head librarian Tsakane Shiburi says proudly.

And in Dube, still in Soweto, a waiter uncorks a bottle of chardonnay at Wandile's Place. Five white customers mix with 30 or so black patrons. Business cards hang on a wall, imported beer is on ice, and jazz plays softly overhead.

"Soweto is a nice place now," says owner Wandile Ndala.

Soweto exploded onto front pages 20 years ago today, when white police gunned down black schoolchildren, sparking nationwide riots that left about 700 people dead. The uprising was a turning point in the long battle to overturn apartheid.

To outsiders, South Africa's largest township came to symbolize poverty, repression and mob violence. But the image of a vast, teeming shantytown beside Johannesburg was never fair. Soweto was the nation's most middle-class black community.

"Soweto is not a slum!" Sophie Masite, the newly elected black mayor of Soweto and downtown Johannesburg, said indignantly. "It's a vibrant city. And it is changing very fast."

The changes, due in part to government subsidies, go far beyond the first mall and yuppie bar. Garbage trucks now ply newly paved streets. Traffic lights, street lamps and stop signs have been erected. Sidewalks and storm sewers are being dug. Several schools and clinics have been built, others refurbished.

The Morris Isaacson High School, cradle of the 1976 uprising, was a ruin three years ago. Most windows were smashed, several classrooms had no roofs and the library had been burned. Yet students somehow attended school there anyway.

The school was rebuilt last year with spacious classrooms, covered brick walkways, new desks and modern equipment. Now not a single window is broken.

Train stations, once feared as sites of violence, have been renovated, complete with Disneylike turrets and spires.

Cricket is suddenly popular, although a basketball league is growing fast.

Enos Mafokate has even started Soweto's first riding academy. Each afternoon and weekend, two dozen children and teenagers practice show-jumping on donated horses and vie to compete in regional championships.

The housing backlog is still severe, but 1,700 new bungalows are being built in Protea Glen, creating a pleasant, if crowded, suburb of red-brick houses with tile roofs, freshly turfed lawns and white lace curtains.

To be sure, much of Soweto remains poor, or at least much poorer than most of South Africa's white communities.

where swimming pools and lush parks are the rule. The windows of M.D. Brokers & Estates, for example, are filled with photos of traditional Soweto "match-box" houses for sale. Most have outside toilets.

Horse-drawn carts still deliver coal to most homes, and a gray haze from countless fires chokes the air on cold winter days. The only BMW dealer has closed for lack of buyers. And Soweto's first bookstore is struggling to make ends meet.

The rent is very high. So is Soweto's unemployment – above 40 percent. Schools are in such short supply that many children travel 15 kilometers each day to attend class. More clinics, tarred roads, telephones, parks and playgrounds are needed.

And as elsewhere in South Africa, crime is pervasive and terrifying.

But vicious taxi wars, in which rival owners gunned down passengers and each other to control lucrative routes, have eased.

So have deadly factional attacks from workers' barracks known as hostels. Community groups work with police, and witnesses who cooperate are no longer burned alive as traitors.

"People are more tolerant now," said Tebogo Poole, manager of Soweto Community Radio, one of two local stations that began broadcasting last year. "Everything has calmed down. It's amazing."

Under apartheid, for example, blacks couldn't own property here. Now nearly half the families surveyed owned their residences. About 95 percent of homes have access to clean water, although some used outdoor taps, and 92 percent have electricity.

The apartheid rulers did their best to keep Soweto poor and to divide black ethnic groups. But Soweto instead became a multi-cultural melting pot, with many residents speaking five or six African languages as well as English and Afrikaans.

Language was the issue in 1976 when hard-line apartheid officials ordered that Afrikaans, spoken by the ruling white minority, be the medium of instruction in black schools.

Soweto designed as ghetto for blacks

SOWETO is not some ancient Zulu or Xhosa word, a link to a proud past. The name was coined by white officials in the 1930s as an acronym for South West Townships, the giant ghetto they built for blacks.

Blacks worked for whites in mines, factories or in nearby Johannesburg but were forced to live in segregated areas without running water, electricity or other amenities. The sprawling suburb soon dwarfed Johannesburg, but it didn't appear on maps until recently. Most streets still have no names.

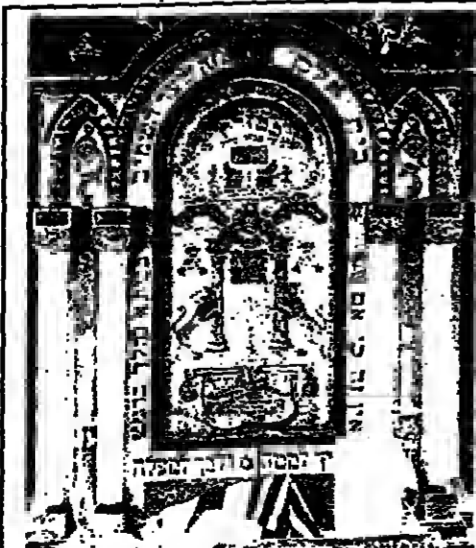
Estimates of Greater Soweto's population today usually range from three to five million. The first official census will begin in October, but several recent academic studies have concluded that Soweto is considerably smaller, with fewer than 1.5 million people. (Los Angeles Times)

And I Shall Dwell Among Them Historic Synagogues of the World

Photographs and commentary by Neil Folberg

For the last three years Neil Folberg, a former student of Ansel Adams, has travelled the world, visiting Jewish communities past and present and photographing both grand-scale and modest synagogues, in places ranging from India to the Czech Republic, to Israel, the American South and the Caribbean. An essay by Yoni Tov Assis focuses on the social and cultural history of the Jews, and Neil Folberg's first-person account of his photographs accompanies each of the chapters, which are divided into geographic regions. A superb full color album, it provides a vibrant window onto the Jewish cultural past. Published by Steimatzky.

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UJA fund-raisers calling for religious status quo

MARILYN HENRY

AMERICAN Jewish fund-raisers, haunted by the specter of a "Who Is a Jew" problem, will introduce a resolution this week in the Jewish Agency assembly calling on the new government to resist changes in the religious status quo.

"This is a devastating issue" in the US, said a fund-raiser from the Midwest who did not want to be identified. "We are trying to promote the partnership [between Israel and the Diaspora]. It's difficult when Israel questions my authenticity as a Jew."

Several hundred key UJA fund-raisers from more than two dozen states were in Jerusalem last week to view a variety of programs underwritten by the money they raise in the US. Many had anecdotes of encounters with contributors who said they would cut or withdraw their support of UJA if there was a retreat from the religious status quo.

"We have a fair number of [contributors] who, under a strict interpretation, wouldn't qualify as Jews under the Law of Return," said the Midwest fund-raiser. "How can Israel take our money, then say we're not kosher?"

The muscle of the mainstream American Jewish philanthropic organizations is drawn largely from the Reform and Conservative movements, which each have high rates of intermarriage. "In my community, people are obsessed with the fact that, God forbid, if anything

happens and their children need to move to Israel, Israel won't accept them," said a fund-raiser from New York State.

The resolution, which is expected to be approved, would reaffirm the agency's support for religious pluralism. The measure is being put forward by the United Jewish Appeal, United Israel Appeal and the Council of Jewish Federations, interlocking agencies that last year provided some \$200 million to the Jewish Agency.

It calls on the government not to allow any change in the Law of Return and to abstain from legislation that "would redefine conversions, or other issues, in a way which may estrange major parts of Jewish people from their linkage to the nation, to their culture and the Jewish state."

Diaspora fund-raisers are under intense pressure to raise their support for the Jewish Agency, which has been flat in recent years.

Although the Reform and Conservative movements are united in seeking full recognition and authority in Israel, there also appears to be a growing tension between them. Many in the Conservative movement, chafing under their limited status in Israel, lay some of the blame on Reform for diluting the definition of Jewishness in the name of inclusion.

"They didn't help with patrilineal descent," said one Southern Conservative fund-raiser.

Auschwitz development plans changed

WARSAW (Reuters) — A Polish developer, whose plans for a supermarket opposite Auschwitz aroused fierce criticism, agreed on Friday to build a center serving the museum at the death camp instead.

The governor of the southern Polish province of Bielsko-Biala, in which Auschwitz is located, announced the decision after meeting the developer, Janusz Marszałek.

"It was agreed that the new investment program will not take the form of a... market or supermarket, but focus on arranging parking and accompanying services," Governor Marek Trombski's office said in a statement.

Marszałek agreed not to resume building work tomorrow, as he had previously said he would if local authorities failed to decide on the

project's future.

Early this year Marszałek's scheme to build a supermarket and fast-food outlet for local townsfolk in existing buildings opposite the museum gates prompted an outcry from Jewish and other organizations abroad and within Poland.

Critics, backed by Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, said the scheme was inappropriate across the street from the museum.

Local authorities ordered a halt to construction, a decision challenged by Marszałek, president of the Maja company, who said building delays were costing his firm money.

However, Marszałek's revised scheme is unlikely to end the controversy because many critics, including the World Jewish Congress, have strongly criticized his actions.



Interior Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani tours the Western Wall on Friday with Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz (left) and Jerusalem Police Commander Aryeh Amit. Kahalani denied allegations by PA officials that there was a secret plan to allow Jews to pray at the Temple Mount. "I think that the way things have been with the Jews having their area to pray [at the Western Wall], and the Moslems theirs [at the mosques on the Temple Mount], is the best solution," he said. He revealed that there would be a discussion in the government this week on policy toward Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem. (Text: Bill Hume; Photo: Brian Handley)

23rd IVF unit approved

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry has given "approval in principle" for the opening of the country's 23rd *in vitro* fertilization unit — this time in a private hospital in Haifa. The number of such units per capita here is already three times that in the US.

The newest IVF unit is to open soon at Haifa's Horev Medical Center, a branch of the Herzliya Medical Center, which performs surgery on an outpatient and brief inpatient basis. It will be the third to be set up in a private center, after Assuta Hospital in Tel Aviv and the HMC's main hospital in Herzliya.

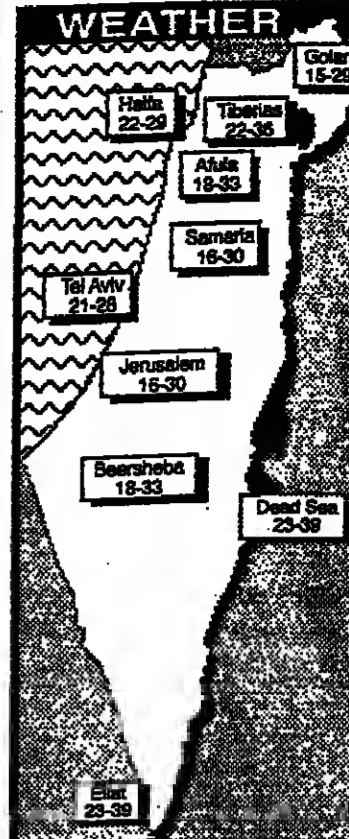
HMC said the queue for IVF in Haifa's public hospitals is six months long. Most general hospitals in the country have an IVF unit, and more still (including Laniado Hospital in Netanya) are in the process of getting permission to open one. This despite the fact that research studies abroad show that when such services are spread too thin, with fewer patients in each unit, success rates fall significantly.

Even the best units have a 20% to 25% live-baby rate for infertile couples. Dr. Neri Laufer, chairman of the Israel Fertility Society, said he is not opposed to opening additional IVF units if they reach a "critical mass" of at least 250 procedures a year, so staffers gain enough experience.

Dr. Yoram Lotan, the ministry official in charge of licensing medical institutions, said yesterday there is "no logical basis" for preventing the establishment of another IVF unit at the Horev Center, and that the ministry has issued "guidelines to ensure quality control" in the units and consider their continued activity on the basis of professional criteria.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, seven of hearts, jack of diamonds and eight of clubs.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Slightly warmer.

AROUND THE WORLD

	C	F	C	F	
American	11	52	14	57	cloudy
Buenos Aires	11	52	17	63	cloudy
London	11	52	17	63	cloudy
Paris	11	52	17	63	cloudy
Rome	11	52	17	63	cloudy
Tokyo	11	52	17	63	cloudy
Hong Kong	11	52	17	63	cloudy
Manila	11	52	17	63	cloudy
Singapore	11	52	17	63	cloudy
Yokohama	11	52	17	63	cloudy

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